

No. 18 October 22, 1989

\$1.50

OUTWEEK

NEW YORK'S
LESBIAN
AND GAY
NEWS
MAGAZINE



BUSH SNUBS THE QUILT

PRIVILEGE AND PREJUDICE: LOVERS WHO ADOPT THEIR LOVERS

ROMANOVSKY AND PHILLIPS

**WOODNER ON DENMARK'S
GAY MARRIAGE**

DRUG WARS: CD4 vs. PEPTIDE

NEW JERSEY'S THREAT TO WOMEN

NEWS • SEXUAL POLITICS • HEALTH • THE ARTS

NICE BOYS!!



"Slunghaied'n" he groaned. "My head!-!"

o n... m a r s

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// Go-Go Boys // Drag Queens // Live Bands 7. DJ's Michael Connolly,
Larry Tee, Perfidia & John Sulligan West Side Highway and 13th Street

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 Photograph by Scott Morgan.

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OUTSPOKEN

Q AND THE COMMUNITY

The recent controversy over the underground drug trial of Compound Q raises disturbing questions about the values placed on cooperation, understanding and tolerance within the lesbian, gay and AIDS communities.

When preliminary data were released about the possible benefits of Q, many in the AIDS movement felt that here at last was a substance that offered the possibility of actually being a cure for AIDS. Because of its unique in vitro activity, no other compound so far discovered had offered such promise. Yet the community was faced with the possibility that even though Q was easily manufactured and was already available in significant quantities, there was the reasonable probability that years could pass and thousands could die before Q passed through the laborious, slow federal drug bureaucracy. Hence a community-based underground drug trial was instituted to hasten the process and hopefully save countless lives which would inevitably be sacrificed by the faceless bureaucrats who have previously shown a deadly lack of urgency over drug trials.

In the course of this underground trial, three patients died. Compound Q was also shown to have significant side effects and not to be the "magic bullet" that many had hoped, although it may have major benefits to PWAs.

Now a disturbing, acrimonious controversy has erupted from those who feel that the underground trial was poorly constructed and administered, and that trials of this kind are in general ill-advised.

This has led to the counter charge that those who question the methods of this trial are somehow pro-FDA or anti-community, and are inhibiting or discouraging progress in the rapid development of new drugs to fight the epidemic.

Both sides should calm down and take a hard look at the bigger picture. The factor which has so far distinguished the AIDS community and has led to its remarkable successes has undoubtedly been its unity, a unity rare in activist movements. It is a unity born of desperation and urgency, two qualities which are only increasing with time. The biggest enemy and the greatest danger to AIDS activism is the potential for splintering and disunity, a danger far graver and more fatal than any specific question over "informed consent" or treatment protocols, as important as those issues undoubtedly are.

There will always be differences within the movement over specifics. There have to be. Healthy differences lead to fresh perspectives and new ideas and have been the strength of the movement so far. But when differing parties become so convinced of the "correctness" of their position that they sacrifice amity, they may well find that they ultimately sacrifice the very goals of the movement itself.

Compound Q was a unique case. It's doubtful that a similar drug, with a long history of human use, easily synthesized, readily available and with the potential to completely cure AIDS, will ever again emerge. The sense of urgency created by Compound Q was unique, and if mistakes were made in the Q study they should be discussed, analyzed and corrected, but they should nonetheless be seen in that unique context. None of these issues are worth tearing apart the AIDS activist community. ▼

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LETTERS

The Real Enemy

Recently, *The New York Times* published a story by Gina Kolata on the use of Compound Q in underground treatment protocol, focusing on the death of a patient who volunteered, in a videotaped interview, to try the drug. This story has provoked a storm of controversy within the AIDS activist community concerning the safety of community-based trials and the process by which drugs are tested in unofficial studies.

Dr. Barbara Starrett has come under particular attack as a result of allegations published in the *Times* that she mishandled the situ-

ation. Barbara Starrett is a hero in the battle against AIDS. As one of the most active and committed doctors in the history of this epidemic, she has repeatedly stuck her neck out for the AIDS community and has performed acts of courage way beyond the call of duty. She has made trips to other countries at her own expense to procure potentially life saving substances. She has championed the rights of people with AIDS to make informed choices concerning new treatments and she has fought long and hard for speedy and safe access to experimental drugs.

It is tragic that a patient in the study died. Yet we don't even know for sure that Compound Q caused his death. There are many deaths of patients in drug studies that may have nothing to do with the drug being taken. Where are *The New York Times* stories about patient deaths in official, government-sponsored studies? Why does *The New York Times* not publish the names of the researchers in whose studies countless people have died? For nine years we have shouted that *The New York Times* has failed to cover AIDS responsibly. Suddenly, they attack a community-based doctor and they're the holy Bible? This is very disturbing. It seems that the death of one patient in an underground treatment protocol is being used as an

excuse to condemn not only community-based trials in general but a dedicated and blameless doctor in particular.

We would like to express our support of Barbara Starrett both as a doctor and as a community activist and condemn anyone making allegations based solely on hearsay without the benefit of any evidence supporting such allegations. None of us, including health care providers, doctors and activists who, on our own initiative, seek to educate ourselves about ways of prolonging life and insuring its quality for people with AIDS, wants a single person to die. This is a fight for life. Barbara Starrett has given us the best she has to give and we believe her when she says that she acted in good



faith according to the provisions of the study in which she was involved. We all want well designed and executed trials to determine the safety and efficacy of new drugs. But let's not forget who the enemies are in this battle. Barbara Starrett is not the enemy. The enemy is an unresponsive government. The enemy is an apathetic health care system. The enemy is racism, homophobia and sexism. And finally, the enemy is time. We are committed to a community which fights for the lives of everyone affected by this epidemic. We must continue to move together.

Sincerely,

Vito Russo

Larry Kramer

Howard Grossman, MD

Jim Fauratt

David Barr, Esq.

Jay Lipner, Esq.

Joseph Sonnabend, MD

Bernard Bihari, MD

BensonHurt

I just finished reading George DeStefano's article on Bensonhurst and I am upset.

It is undoubtedly a good article and I believe that the picture he is describing is true: we saw it too many times, but...

I am Italian and commute between Milan and N.Y.C. My lover was African-American and lived in Italy for quite sometime. I do not live in a closet; my family is my best support and, though I no longer live with my ex-lover, he still goes back there to visit "family" and friends.

One of the first things I learned living in N.Y.C. was to "beware of stereotypes"; those telling us that women are inferior, Mandingos have very big penises, homosexuals give you AIDS. Blacks are thieves. Arabs are religious fanatics, Russians are communists and on and on and on...

The reason we had the Bensonhurst and Howard

Beach and Central Park and 103rd St. and Wiggstock and Michael Stewart incidents (do you remember him?) in the first place was because of stereotypes and fake superficial generalizations.



We all agree it is time to put a stop to it and do it now.

One way to obtain this is to begin to see people in terms of individuals, as a single special part of the whole, as unique and at the same time equal. (I thought this country was founded on it but I now have very serious doubts).

I hope in the very near future when somebody finds out I am Italian he will withhold that little stupid smile. Where I come from we are all Italians but we still have at least 20 represented political parties.

And of course I claim my right to be an individual and demand an end to stereotypes for every living creature on the face of this planet.

Since I think you are the best gay publication so far in N.Y.C. I think this kind of attitude should be throughout your articles because this is the basis of any political or personal action we undertake in the gay community and in the community at large.

Bruno A. Varale

Manhattan

Vive DeStefano

I'm writing to thank you for the article on lesbians and gay men in Bensonhurst by George DeStefano in issue number 16. The subject could not be more timely.

And DeStefano found good people to interview. But the best part is the high quality of DeStefano's writing. It adds a great deal to OutWeek. Get him back for more!

I'm a loyal fan of OutWeek since I first saw it about six weeks ago. There's always something of interest, and I am anxious to support a responsible and non-wacky newspaper the community can depend on. I'm grateful for what you're doing, even if the articles are of uneven quality.

Your strong editorial in support of Barney Frank is right on in every way. Keep up the good work.

Bert Hansen

Manhattan

The Watcher with the Goods

I'm writing my first fan letter (at age 63 that's something in itself) but I couldn't let Michelangelo Signorile's remarks in OutWeek's October 1st Gossip Watch, saying that people claim everything in the magazine is OK except his column, go without responding.

It's the first page I turn to and it's not that I enjoy gossip columns as such, actually I despise them for the very reason that you have seen fit—correctly—to take their writers to task for. They are excuses for self-indulgent authors to partake in the excesses of unconscionable people while giving the public the vicarious sensation that they and the readers are all one.

I am glad that someone finally takes them to task and tries to awaken their dormant consciousnesses. PLEASE keep it up, maybe it will make a difference. We can hope.

Derek Mason

Manhattan

Lay Off Liz

I really enjoy Mr. Signorile's column as well as your other heroic and outrageous

features; you are wonderful and may you flourish forever. However, I do think Mr. Signorile is being inordinately self-indulgent in his Liz Smith-bashing. It's easier to whack away at someone close to you—and face it, Liz Smith is one of the Good Guys. She happens to be a gossip columnist, which is an incomprehensible job about an incredibly trivial world the very existence of which is unjustifiable; however, that's her job, and I can't say I've never done anything stupid for a living. Sometimes that's just how things end up. Within her milieu she fights the good fight, and I watch her on *Live at Five* every chance I get and I have often been proud of the things she says, proud she's one of us. I'm not aware of her ever altering her pronouns or referring



to some fiancé back home in Texas the way so many public figures do: Rock Hudson, Liberace.... Yes, there are a lot of creeps out there who deserve the old dish-of-butter-in-the-face treatment, but Liz Smith is not one of them. She's on our side. Get off her back!

Margaret Strother

Manhattan

Cover Me

Just wanted to say I think your magazine is great, and your covers are improving too. The cover of no. 15 (Oct. 1) was great, thanks in part to totally hot Matt Ebert. What attitude! What eyebrows! Maybe Matt will do some nude activism in the future?

"Would be truly inspiring.

Forgive such frivolity,
but I live in L.A.

D.C.

Hollywood

Testing GMHC

I am one of the two (actually it was five) health care professionals whom Sandor Katz referred to in his commentary in the September 11, 1989 issue to which a GMHC Hotline volunteer "M.S." responded in the Letters of October 1, 1989.

I wish to clarify that our actions were not intended to "paint GMHC Hotline volunteers as irresponsible idiots" as the volunteer put it. Rather, it was our concern over what we consider an irresponsible and very potentially damaging move by

GMHC to push testing because of two possibly helpful treatments that are actually only available to a limited few. Our purpose in placing the calls was to evaluate to what extent GMHC had totally prepared itself for



the wide variety of concerns and situations individuals have regarding the issues of testing and treatment.

While our survey of the

hotline cannot be considered "scientific," we placed approximately 12 calls over a three day period. Unfortunately, none of us ever spoke to a hotline volunteer who showed the sensitivity and concerns expressed by M.S. Perhaps we only got the "bad apples" or perhaps M.S. represents a minority. In any case, I believe our sample was great enough. The obvious confusion created by our simple scenarios (all based on case histories of patients we knew) are indicators that the paid staff of GMHC did not properly consider and/or prepare its volunteer staff to handle calls on the matter of testing and treatment in a manner that is professionally satisfying to us.

As some of your readers will be aware, after this announcement by GMHC, I spoke before ACT UP and formed an ad hoc committee to address concerns regarding testing issues. This group continues to meet. On September 21, we sponsored an inter-organizational dialogue meeting in which 26 representatives from 22 AIDS service and advocacy organizations attended, including GMHC. This group will be meeting again on October 23 to finalize a consensus statement on testing recommendations and to continue work on a needs assessment profile which we can together present to the new city administration. These documents will lay out in detail the numerous holes that currently exist regarding availability of post testing services for significant groups of people. I

am encouraged that all of the various organizations are eagerly participating in dialogue and mutual action.

Rodger Pettyjohn, RN, PWA
Brooklyn

Quilt Compliment

As volunteer-coordinator for The Metro New York Names Project, I want to thank you for the two excellent articles in the October 15 issue of *OutWeek*: *Patchwork Politics* a review of the upcoming HBO program *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt*, and *Call to Arms, The Quilt: Response to a National Crisis*, the Parsons exhibition.

Although the Quilt was shown for the last time in its entirety this past weekend in Washington, D.C., portions of the Quilt will constantly tour cities throughout the country. A major exhibition of panels is being planned for New York City on December 1, World AIDS Day and with displays in all boroughs.

Once again, thank you for the excellent coverage of the two current events pertaining to The Quilt.

David Feinstein
Astoria

I'll Take Manhattan

So much for the old story that Manhattan gets too much press coverage over the other boroughs. Both October 8th ("Gay in Bensonhurst") and October 15th ("Getting Tough, Brooklyn Women's Martial Arts") gave *OutWeek's* cover story to Brooklyn. Possibly it was decided to beef up that area's circulation. Who knows? Maybe in six weeks (after two for Queens, two for the Bronx and two for Staten Island) *OutWeek* can give a cover to Manhattan. In the case of the forgotten borough, better do it before they secede!

Larry Gutenberg
Manhattan

STONEWALL RIOTS by ANDREA NATALIE



GREG PICKED A POOR TIME
TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS.

XEROXED

Kramer Blamer

Mr. Max Frankel
The New York Times
229 W. 43rd St.
New York, NY 10036
Dear Mr. Frankel:

I am responding to Larry Kramer's letter to you dated October 1, 1989. Since Mr. Kramer makes all his letters to the *Times* available to the members of ACT UP, I felt it was appropriate and necessary to respond immediately to let you know how others in ACT UP, especially those involved/ indicted by Mr. Kramer feel about the content.

I can only speak for the circumstances involving Gina Kolata's article (Sept. 19th, Compound Q Trials), since I am the "distraught survivor" of whom Mr. Kramer writes. I charge him with the same allegations with which he charges you: Who checks his "facts?" Who gathers his information and allows him to make these holier-than-thou statements? Was this man at the Treatment and Data meeting when I presented Scott Sheaffer's story? If after reading my summary statement, could he not, as Mark Harrington of ACT UP did, call me, another ACT UP member, to either politely ask me questions, or, in the Larry Kramer method, rant and rave to ME or to find out any other aspect of the story? NO. He went right for character assassination, which (I'm sure you're aware) he does brilliantly—always at the expense of others. I refuse to sit by and allow this man, who only knows me from "information-once-removed," to make such callous statements about my motives and my first

hand knowledge of the events which occurred in my apartment, and when I was with Scott.

You know Mr. Kramer's reputation—good and bad. So did I. I do not care an iota about Mr. Kramer's past—what I care about is the damage he is doing in the name of the AIDS crisis—and how he is straining the credibility of an excellent organization of which I'm a member, ACT UP. Yes, your newspaper needs to be hounded about its coverage of the AIDS crisis, and yes, Ms. Kolata's article was flawed. First and foremost I was appalled to see my roommate's name in print, when I specifically asked that it be omitted. Her "editors," "all the way to the

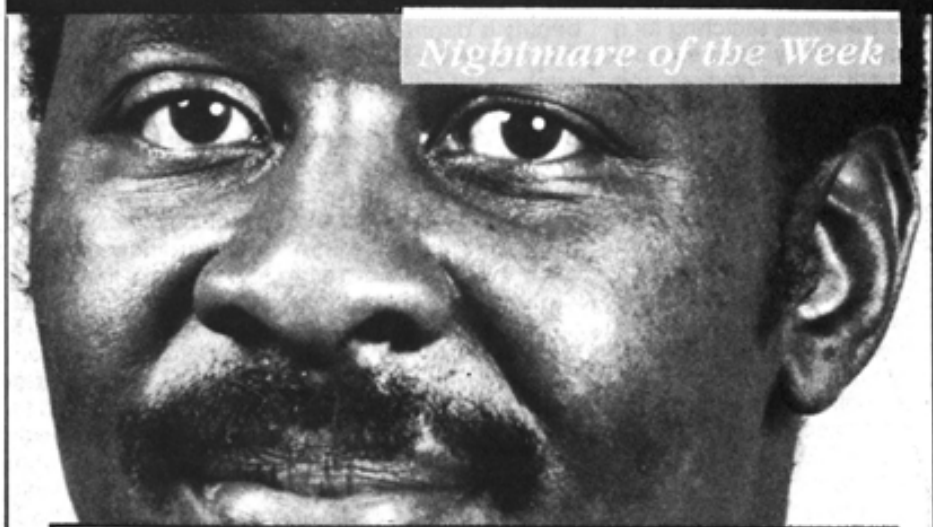
top" told her to use it. It was Scott's doctors who gave her his last name. I find that totally insensitive to his parents and not relative to the story—the story of drug trials and how they are handled and what happens in the event of the death of a participant. Yes, we have to picket you—make you aware of each and every way your paper practices its latent homophobia—but I will not sit back and give Larry Kramer free reign (pardon the pun) to attack not only you, your reporters and editors, but also members of his own group without a thorough investigation of the circumstances surrounding Scott Sheaffer's death. The only good I can see coming out of the Gina Kolata article is that some sort of investigation into this death may come about.

What did not come about, as far as I am concerned, was a strong,

responsible, consensus agreement on underground trials from ACT UP. And why? Because people were afraid of upsetting the apple cart. By finding fault with the study people were afraid of losing what underground trials were available, when, indeed, we will lose friends and lovers to underground trials because these people sign away their medical and financial rights to proper attention. I feel that if a brave PWA is going to give up any extra time he/she may have on this earth to help others (and doctors) learn more about the disease, it is horrifying to me that there is no provision for medical care in cases of need and/or injury during a trial. And that is dangerous—and suicidal to PWAs, the doctors and ACT UP's reputation as being a tough monitoring force in the AIDS pandemic.

John Sefakis
Manhattan

Nightmare of the Week



This week's nightmare is WILLIAM BARCLAY ALLEN, Chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. He recently gave a speech entitled "Blacks? Animals? Homosexuals? What Is A Minority?" in which he argued that no one in society should have a protected status (no one meaning Blacks, animals or homosexuals, get it?). So while Mr. Allen kisses ass, unprotected, in the hallowed halls of Washington's Republican establishment, we have a suggestion for his next speech. How about:

"Uncle Toms, Assholes, and Asshole Uncle Tom Civil Rights Commissioners."

Hughes Blues
The New York Times
229 W. 43rd St.
New York, NY 10036
To the Editor:

Caryn James' review of Isaac Julien's *Looking for Langston* ("A Trip into the Middle Ages, and a View of Langston Hughes," Sunday, October 1) bristles with misconception and homophobia. While Ms. James feels that "the most interesting aspect" of the film is "the controversy surrounding it"—that is, the copyright dispute between Mr. Julien and the Hughes estate—she fails to mention the most interesting reason for this dispute: The estate objects to the film's depiction of the Black poet as gay. The fact of Hughes' homosexuality and the fact that history systematically chooses to ignore it is the *raison d'être* for the film.

One wishes that Ms. James would open herself and not be afraid to see what the film is really about: a Black man searching for a gay identity in an environment which makes this search nearly impossible. Not a documentary (Julien calls his film a "meditation"), *Looking for Langston* is a fantasy, a poetic attempt to reconstruct a history that has been all but annihilated. Yet Ms. James, like the Hughes estate (which has refused to grant American copyright use of two poems so that the soundtrack of the film had to be turned down twice during the New York screening), continues the grand tradition of obscuring truth and desire. She goes on to write about the "film's greatest irony": "Hughes was obsessively secret about his sexuality." Is she saying then that all films about Hughes should therefore keep his sexuality a secret? Or does she not understand why a man who is both Black and gay might be secretive about his sexuality in a less than compas-

sionate world?

Yet Ms. James goes one step further. As if obscuring and ignoring Hughes' sexuality were not enough, she goes on to obliterate his sexuality altogether with her parenthetical remark "his recent biographer, Arnold Rampersad, argues he was probably asexual." Hasn't the dignity of Langston Hughes suffered enough, but to be lanced by this insensitive and superficial statement?



For *Looking for Langston* to be reviewed by a critic totally lacking in comprehension of the issues present in the film and to overlook its beauty is disgraceful, and reflects equally on the newspaper that allowed her thoughts printed. Mr. Julien did not "drag Hughes out of the closet, kicking and screaming." He dragged history and desire out of the closet. It is Hughes' estate and Ms. James who kick and scream. Bravo, Mr. Julien!

Robert Hilferly
Manhattan

Gay Vote, Chicago Style
Newsweek
Letters Editor

Before his scandal, Barney Frank never inspired me. I thought he was a boring, long-winded, after-dinner speaker. Now after his sexual fall, I can identify with this fellow gay man. And if he would move to Chicago, I would vote for him twice.

Jon-Henri Damski
Chicago, IL

Calling All Candidates
The Honorable David Dinkins

Manhattan Borough President
1 Centre Street
New York, NY 10007
and
Mr. Rudolph Giuliani
1270 Sixth Ave.
New York, NY 10020

Dear Mr. Dinkins and Mr. Giuliani:

The Majority Action Committee of ACT UP is not satisfied with your response to the crisis of HIV transmission amongst drug users and their families. It is not acceptable to pass the buck from city to state to George Bush and back again, when, according to the Department of Health's own conservative estimates, 60-70 percent of the 250,000 IV drug users who live in this city are now infected with the virus widely believed to cause AIDS.

Your opposition to a clean needle exchange program with nothing more substantial and constructive to offer is no answer. The epidemic will go on even as candidates, like yourself, promise to build more jails and impose stiffer penalties.

While we note your adoption of the slogan "drug treatment on demand," given the staggering number of lives in peril and history of city government inaction, we demand specifics: how do you propose to make this a reality?

Any proposal of drug treatment on demand must address:

1) *Treatment slots.* Even an increase of 50,000 treatment slots will not begin to provide necessary access. Treatment means staff and beds available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Typically, an IV drug user who is not enrolled in any program will not have access to life saving health care for HIV infection, much less early intervention. If there are only 50,000 treatment slots available for IV drug users, that means 200,000 IVUs are, de facto, quarantined: closed out of

drug treatment, as well as health care for HIV infection.

2) *Responsibility.* There must be a front-line city agency (able to work with the state) in developing and running the full range of approaches to treating addiction (including: halfway houses, crisis intervention, acupuncture, methadone to detox, abstinence programs, family counseling, etc.). The methadone model must not be the only treatment for heroin addiction.

3) *Funding.* In 1977, the city spent nearly \$7 million running the Addiction Services Agency. In his first year in office, Ed Koch cut off all city funding for treatment programs other than methadone. He allowed the Addiction Services Agency to go out of business. The funding to methadone programs was reduced annually until it was completely eliminated by 1983.

4) *Sites.* Julio Martinez of the State Office for Substance Abuse prepared a list of 179 desirable city owned sites. The next mayor of New York must demonstrate his leadership by confronting neighborhood opposition. There is an overdue promise of ten city owned buildings pending since 1986.

Treatment slots, municipal management, funding and sites are just an outline of what will make "drug treatment on demand" a reality and not just a slogan. We anticipate meeting with you for immediate consideration of these issues.

Majority Action
ACT UP
New York

Club Snub

The Board of Directors
Stonewall Democratic Club
P.O. Box 1750
Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10011
Dear Members of the Board of Directors:

Just prior to the Septem-

ber 12 primary election each of us received a letter from the Stonewall Democratic Club. Since none of us has ever had any affiliation with your club we were surprised to receive correspondence from you. We were even more surprised (outraged is a more appropriate word) that you urged us to vote for Carol Greitzer in the Third District City Council race against Tom Duane.

How could a gay political club support Greitzer, an ineffective advocate for the rights of our community, in a close race against an articulate and dynamic, openly-gay candidate with proven vote-getting ability in both the gay and straight communities? With the loss of Tom Duane, once again, not one of the 35 City Council members will be openly gay or lesbian, even though by most conservative estimates our community is a sizable part of

the New York City population.

We do not advocate supporting a candidate merely because he or she is gay or lesbian. When a well qualified member of our community runs for office, however, that individual should enjoy the support of the community, absent a compelling reason to withhold such support. When does a compelling reason exist to withhold support? A straight candidate who consistently, forcefully and effectively speaks out on the issues important to our community, such as Ruth Messinger, should be able to count on our support. But to borrow a phrase coined by Senator Bentsen, Carol Greitzer is no Ruth Messinger.

Greitzer has taken no initiative or leadership role in matters where her position would allow her to be extremely helpful, despite the

fact that the Third District includes the West Village, Chelsea and Gramercy Park. For example, Greitzer chairs the Consumer Affairs Committee of the Council; but to the best of our knowledge she has never conducted any hearings into the pricing of AZT. Well-publicized hearings could focus attention on this issue and might have induced the manufacturer of AZT to reduce its prices sooner, or more significantly, than it did. Similarly, what leadership role has Greitzer played in condemning recent incidents of anti-gay violence or in supporting female ACT UP demonstrators harassed by police matrons?

Our community faces so much resistance from other groups in the city, that we cannot afford to squabble among ourselves. We cannot afford to support those who pander to such behavior.



In not electing Tom Duane we have postponed, for at least two years, the chance to have a member of our community at the table. Your Club must bear some of the responsibility for Duane's defeat and our community's ongoing need to rely on others and their half-hearted interest in protecting our rights.

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Joseph Revives Testing and Contact Tracing Plan

Health Department Memos Reveal Aggressive Tactics Despite Opposition

by Sandor Katz

NEW YORK—City Health Commissioner Stephen Joseph is persisting in his effort to implement a system of aggressive HIV testing and contact tracing, despite the resounding rejection of such measures by the lesbian/gay and AIDS community, as well as the Koch administration, last summer.

Joseph testified last week at a hearing of the City Council Committee on Health in favor of mandatory reporting of the names of HIV-infected individuals, confidential testing and contact tracing. And *OutWeek* has learned that beyond advocating such measures in the abstract, Joseph has taken concrete steps toward implementing them.

"Within a confidential public health framework, I strongly believe we should have...mandatory reporting of people who are infected with HIV," Joseph said before the Committee on Oct. 10. "We should [also] become more vigorous in our system of contact tracing," he added. "This would not infringe upon, but support, patients' individual rights."

OutWeek has obtained copies of a memo dated September 7, 1989, from Joseph to his Deputy Commissioners, instructing them to submit proposals "summarizing how you intend to maximize efforts to provide HIV counseling, testing and voluntary partner notification to as many high-risk persons as possible."

OutWeek has also obtained a memo dated September 15, from Deputy Health Commissioner Mark S. Rapoport, following up Joseph's newest directive. This memo adds, "...don't feel constrained by current

resources. This may serve as an opportunity to augment our resources in the AIDS education and counseling area. In some programs, even greater expansion into testing may be appropriate."

In addition, the draft of a Department of Health (DOH) document, "Guidelines for Physicians in HIV Counseling and Testing," includes a "Contact Notification Assistance Protocol" and an "HIV Contact Locator Form." Current and former DOH employees have confirmed that "There is a big push for confidential testing" and that their impression is that confidential rather than anonymous testing "is the step right before contact notification."

Suddenly Last Summer

Joseph first announced plans for the mandatory reporting of the names of the HIV-infected through confidential testing, and a system of contact tracing, last June at the Fifth International Conference on AIDS in Montreal. With confidential testing, individuals' names and HIV antibody test results are recorded, whereas in anonymous testing no names are ever used. Contact tracing, or partner notification, involves reporting names of sexual or needle-sharing partners to public health authorities for them to notify partners that they may have been HIV-infected.

Joseph's surprise announcement sparked a furor. A coalition of 46 AIDS service-providing organizations, activist groups and physicians, representing a consensus among the leadership of the communities most severely hit by AIDS, joined in denouncing Joseph's plan. Their joint

statement said, "We should not forget the most basic public health lesson learned over the years of the AIDS epidemic: measures of compulsion or coercion directed at persons who are HIV-infected drive these people away from medical care and treatment, and it is a massive disincentive to their entry into the health care system."

Joseph has since modified his stance to preserve "anonymous counseling and testing for those who will not accept testing any other way."

At the time, Mayor Koch responded to the opposition, saying "The city doesn't have any such testing policy. If there is to be a change, I would have to agree with it and I have not made any decisions."

Koch spokesperson Lee Jones says the Mayor's opposition to Joseph's plan was based on the inadequacy of treatment services for the already known HIV-infected population, but that "it is an issue which should be revisited." Jones denies that the DOH memos suggest a move toward contact tracing. Regarding Koch's views on the issue of confidential versus anonymous testing, Jones says, "The person who would be advising him on this would be Dr. Joseph."

DOH: Nothing New

DOH spokesperson Sam Friedman denies that there is any shift in policy. "We are pursuing it more vigorously, but it's been there," he said. Friedman recalls that "the controversial item in Montreal was the call for mandatory reporting of HIV seropositivity" and claims that confidential as opposed to anonymous testing, and contact tracing, had widespread sup-

port. But Gay Men's Health Crisis, the Community Health Project and other major AIDS service providing organizations opposed, and continue to oppose, not only mandatory reporting, but the move toward confidential testing and contact notification.

Friedman could not explain the rationale for confidential as opposed to anonymous testing. However, some observers point out that confidential testing in effect accomplishes the reporting of names of the HIV-infected.

Susan Rosenthal, director of the Bureau of AIDS Prevention, Counseling and Testing, could not be reached for comment.

A former DOH employee, who is familiar with the department's HIV testing procedures and requested anonymity, explains, "Joseph is taking the communicable disease model approach to AIDS." A traditional communicable disease model involves mandatory reporting of names and tracing and notification of partners.

The former employee observes that Joseph is "making the switch from anonymous to confidential in a very tricky way," and that "a lot more people are doing confidential testing than people are aware of." He says that confidential testing currently takes place in DOH tuberculosis, STD, and women's health program clinics. In addition, DOH is in the process of hiring and training 40 new HIV counselors who will conduct confidential testing in hospital clinics. "This outnumbers the number of people in anonymous testing centers," says the source.

Body Positive's Ken Moore concurs. "There seems to have been a de facto shift at DOH. It's within their legal prerogative, but they're doing it without any input from the communities." Moore was recently contacted by a man who tested HIV antibody positive at a confidential testing site. "Someone at the clinic asked him to take the test, and did not inform him that any anonymous testing was available." The man reported that a doctor gave him the results with no supportive counseling, and a gloomy prognosis. In another instance, Moore reports that a man received a letter from the Department of Health informing him



NAME GAME

Stephen Joseph with reporters at Montreal AIDS conference last June

Photo: T.L. Litt

that someone he had had sex with had been diagnosed with AIDS. "DOH is sneaking these policies in," concludes Moore.

Frontline MDs Targeted

The partner notification strategy centers around physicians, who are the only ones empowered under New York State's HIV confidentiality law to break confidentiality with patients and notify contacts. (They must by law have reason to believe the patient will not notify the contacts and inform the patient that they intend to do so.) Doctors may choose instead to turn the disclosure over to public health officials.

A memo titled "Guidelines for physicians on HIV counseling and testing" is being drafted by the DOH to be distributed to all physicians in the city, according to current and former department employees. The guidelines include a "Contact Notification Assistance Protocol," and doctors are to be supplied with "HIV Contact Locator Form(s)" which would request comprehensive detailed information, and which physicians would be asked to turn over to DOH after completion. The net effect, according to critics, is to render confidentiality moot.

Another major problem cited by opponents of Joseph's plans for stepped-up HIV testing and contact tracing concerns the lack of medical

treatment resources available. Ronald Johnson, executive director of the Minority Task Force on AIDS, said of Joseph's June proposal, "It's a cruel hoax to talk about clinical advantages of HIV testing, while knowing the reality of the health care system, which often entails waiting periods of two to four months [for access to treatment]."

Treatment Before Testing

Ironically, Joseph's stated rationale for reviving the plan is "the rapidly accumulating evidence about the efficacy of treatment for HIV positive patients." Critics recount horror stories not only about waits, but about the woeful standards of care at some city medical facilities, and the lack of city funding support to expand and improve health care for the HIV-infected.

Many AIDS activists and service-providers fear that resources will be channelled away from treatment and prevention and diverted to HIV testing and costly contact tracing programs.

Rodger Pettyjohn, of ACT UP's Ad-Hoc Committee on Testing Issues, says "When we already don't have enough money to do the things we need to do, to be wasting this money, wasting this time in meetings developing a partner notification program,

See CONTACT TRACING on page 29

News

Names Project Quilt Returns to the Capital

President, First Lady Forgo Visit for Whirlybird Fly-Over

by Cliff O'Neill

WASHINGTON—A photograph of a young man mugging for the camera stares up from the ground. Around it, sewn into the purple cloth rectangle, are messages from friends and lovers, letters cut from a favorite shirt, pictures of pink flamingos and a

drawerful of favorite buttons.

For some, it is a tribute; for others, a message. For all, a way of saying, "Goodbye."

And for three days, Oct. 6-8, thousands shared the massive symbol of farewell on The Ellipse, the broad circle of grass across the street from

the White House, as the Names Project International AIDS Memorial Quilt was displayed in its entirety for the last time.

Now composed of over 10,900 quilt panels, the 13-ton memorial to the lives lost to AIDS has now grown to the point where there will no



MASSIVE SYMBOL OF LOVE
The Quilt graces the Ellipse.

Photo: Jim Marks

longer be any place large enough to display the quilt in its entirety, according to quilt officials.

But for one last weekend, it covered a sizable section of downtown Washington. One six-by-three-foot panel for every six American AIDS deaths alone—and several more AIDS deaths globally—stretched across the grass as the mourners, the lovers, the government officials and the just plain curious wandered about the squares, heads bent and voices hushed.

Echoing off the walls of the surrounding stone-faced executive offices and the marble war memorials came the names of the dead. From a small podium, for hours upon hours, community members and celebrities alike read all the names appearing on the quilt. Often the lists of names ended with a cracking voice paying homage to the reader's son, best friend, life-long companion, wife or father.

Ever-present anger

And bubbling under the grief of the sorrowful voices, an ever present anger simmered like the steam coming up from the ground under the panels.

"...[A]nd for all the other names that will never be heard in the house behind me," concluded one man reading names.

The man in the house just up the hill almost heard those names at one point. Although the president and the first lady had been invited, repeatedly, to read names at the event, no formal word was ever received by quilt staffers and neither ever showed up.

Still, for a brief time, George Bush was nearby.

Friday, under overcast skies, hundreds wandered the quilt fearing a rainstorm that would move the display indoors for the rest of the weekend. Then, raindrops began to fall.

Quickly, quilt monitors, all dressed in white, folded up the panels, wrapped them in plastic, and left them on the ground.

"We're going to ride this out," said a voice from the podium to cheers and applause.

Moments later came the sight of the president's helicopter, arriving to pick him up to take him to Camp David, zooming over The Ellipse to land

on the south lawn of the White House.

Instantly, quilt officials ordered volunteers to open the panels as fast as they could.

"The president will not be here today," a voice boomed across the speakers, "but he will be overhead."

As the president mounted the helicopter, the tone of the names changed sharply.

Harsh and bitter, a clipped voice read the names in a rage. Louder and louder, they continued as the drab green door closed shut.

Amassed by the edge of the grass, the crowd viewing the Quilt stood staring at the White House when, suddenly, hundreds of cold fingers spontaneously pointed at the helicopter as it rose over the lawn. The accusing hands followed the executive as his aircraft flew above the Quilt, now bared open and exposed.

"Shame! Shame! Shame!" shouted the mourners, hurling condemnation at the commander-in-chief as his helicopter crossed The Ellipse, circled east and flew away.

The reaction to the president's no-show at the display and the administration's AIDS policies throughout the epidemic, however, were quite different just hours later when Dr. Burton Lee III, personal physician to the president, took the microphone to read names.

After a smattering of applause, Lee immediately thanked the crowd for the welcome.

"Thank you for that," Lee stated. "I will give word of my reception to the president when I see him," he added to more applause.

Booth took in new panels

Throughout the weekend, a booth on the edge of the Quilt took in new panels, checked in at the Quilt, and, after quick needlework, they were added to the larger display.

Then, the new names were read. Dozens more added to the already mammoth list.

And then came one more voice, pointing out the harsh reality which lay beneath the expanse of cloth, denim, paint and patchwork.

In the three days the Quilt lay

open behind the White House, almost 150 more Americans—and many more worldwide—fell to the epidemic.

"I'm just angry," said one woman, viewing the Quilt. "The first time, I felt hurt. The last time, I felt hurt. Now, I'm just angry."

1,000 Points Of Something

WASHINGTON—The Names Project Quilt may be too huge to be displayed here again, but AIDS activists will be back in force to press for a meeting with President George Bush, Project director Cleve Jones promised thousands at a candlelight vigil October 7.

"Ten months ago, you shared with the American people a vision of a thousand points of light," he said from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. "Yet when we come to the nation's capital, we bring a thousand points of light times ten, times ten again, and still you cannot see us. We will return, Mr. President."

Bush flew over the Quilt in his Marine One helicopter on his way to the Camp David, MD, retreat as volunteers unfolded the display again after a brief rain early Friday afternoon.

"Mr. President, it is the tenth month of your administration, in the tenth year of the [AIDS] pandemic," Jones added. "Time is running out...and it ran out long ago for those tens of thousands we remember here tonight. The time has come for you to see, and understand, and act."

He said he had appealed to Bush and other government policy makers because decisions about AIDS over the coming months will help decide whether the ultimate death toll is measured in tens of thousands or tens of millions.

"It is imperative that those decisions be made with compassion, and we know that seeing the Quilt opens people's hearts and minds to the reality of this epidemic and the need for immediate and compassionate response," Jones said.

—John Zeb



FROM NO HOUSE TO WHITE HOUSE
 Activists' "Die-In" demands affordable housing and treatment for PWA's

Photo: Patsy Lynch

AIDS Activists Demonstrate Throughout Quilt Weekend

Demand Accessible Treatments and Housing

by Cliff O'Neill

WASHINGTON—Firmly grasping his mother's hand to help him along the dark path, little boy, bundled in a down jacket, stumbled across the grass, almost dropping his lit candle. Just keeping him from falling, his mother pulled him upright and rubbed the top of his head in consolation.

But the boy's candle blew out.

From beside him, a man passing by, arm in arm with his companion, bent to relight the boy's candle. They all exchanged greetings and rejoined

the march.

The four carried candles against the night darkness. Reportedly there were over 60,000 such flames illuminating the evening sky near the Reflecting Pool on that cold night, Oct. 7—approximately one for each American AIDS death since the epidemic began.

One by one, the tiny sparks of light came bobbing to the steps where Martin Luther King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech over 25 years ago. They soon encircled the entire pool, creating a

nighttime blaze between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

Where 25 years earlier, the speeches were about freedom and equality, on this night people spoke about life and death, about politics and accessibility of drug treatments, about grief and about hope.

Gathering for the second annual Candlelight March Against AIDS on the memorial steps, the silent thousands quickly gave up their silence as soon as the speeches begin. Raising their

See DEMO on page 28

News

NGLTF Hosts Town Meeting on AIDS

Epidemic's Effects on Lesbian/Gay Politics Examined

by John Zeh

WASHINGTON—Veteran activists at a town meeting held during the NAMES Project Quilt display October 6 called on gay and lesbian activists to broaden their efforts inside the movement and out to include under-represented constituents and to extend affordable health care to all people.

Convened by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the forum, held at George Washington University, featured speakers whose political work pre-dated the AIDS epidemic and straddles the worlds of health policy and sexual liberation. They included Maxine Wolfe of ACT UP, Jeff Levi, Washington lobbyist for the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), Veneita Porter, director of New York State's Office of AIDS Discrimination Issues, Charles Stewart, former co-



REFORMING THE SYSTEM

Jeff Levi

Photo: John Zeh

chair of the National Chapter of Black and White Men Together, and Scott Tucker of ACT UP/Philadelphia and

the National Writers' Union.

The panel examined changes in gay and lesbian activism since AIDS became a huge political issue. "In the day-to-day crush of the crisis," said NGLTF program organizer Sue Hyde, "we spend precious little time thinking about how and why our movement has been shaped and transformed by an accompanying epidemic of homophobia, racism, sexism and neglect."

Just as the Quilt is a powerful symbol of remembrance and hope, the massive display is a metaphor for failure to reach inward and outward toward those touched by AIDS, Levi argued.

"It's been an important, moving monument for our community and a ritual to focus our grieving. It has also been a tool of enormous value in creating sympathy—though not necessarily empathy—in the non-AIDS world," he said. "But it has missed a tremendous political organizing opportunity to educate our community, and the world, about why there are so many panels on display." Levi stressed that he spoke as an individual and not for GMHC.

AIDS activism must be expanded to explore issues of class and equity for all who need medical help, Levi, former NGLTF director, told 80 people in the audience and C-SPAN TV viewers.

"Universal health care," responded the Roxbury, Mass.-raised Porter, "means a universe that includes all of us. After eight years, it's an abomination that there aren't more people of color in the AIDS movement."

Porter, who is African-American,



OWNING AIDS

Veneita Porter

Photo: John Zeh

called AIDS "a rare opportunity and an incredible challenge" to communities of color whom it affects disproportionately. "If we don't own this issue, who the fuck is going to own it?" she asked.

Charles Stewart, now a chief deputy to a California state senator, urged more "truth" in the movement. "It's appalling that women at risk to cancer don't have anywhere near the kind of advocacy or institutions we have set up to fight AIDS. Just as many or more die of cancer. If this is not our primary concern, let's negotiate issues such as gentrification, hate crimes, civil rights, AIDS funding and urban elections. Let's dialogue and build coalitions around these issues...so we don't have to put [them] on the back burner.

"We tend to play loose and fast with ourselves and each other. Rather than deny and pay lip service to the fact that leadership focuses on our own rights and issues, let's acknowledge that it does not for the most part have a commitment to women's issues nor a primary commitment to issues of people of color" and redirect internal anger toward enemies, Stewart said.

"Gay men are no better, no worse than anyone else," countered ACT UP's Wolfe. "We have to get past that mentality."

A 30-year veteran of various caus-

See NGLTF on page 26

News

How the Danes Did It

An Interview with Danish Activist Else Slange

On October 1, 11 gay male couples in Denmark made world history when they were married in state-recognized ceremonies under a new Danish law that went into effect that same day. Denmark is the first country in the world to allow lesbian and gay marriages.

Among the newlywed couples were Eigel Axlil, 74, and his lover Axel Axlil, 67, who founded the Danish gay rights movement in 1948, after being fired by his employer whom he had told he was gay.

OutWeek national correspondent Rex Wockner covered the event in person. The following are articles about Wockner's own experiences in Denmark, and an interview with Else Slange, president of Denmark's national lesbian and gay organization, which was instrumental in the passage of the Danish law allowing gay and lesbian marriages. —A.M.

by Rex Wockner

Else Slange, a high school teacher, is the president of *Landsforeningen for Bøsse og Lesbiske*, the Danish National Association for Gays and lesbians. On Oct. 1, the day of Denmark's historic, first-in-the-world gay weddings, she sat down for an interview with *OutWeek* and *The New York Times*.

Rex Wockner: Why was Denmark the first country in the world to allow gay and lesbian marriage?

Else Slange: We are one of the countries in which there is one of the oldest homosexual organizations. You could think that Holland should have been first, because they have the oldest organization, but they have been stuck on the problem of legally supporting your spouse if one loses a job. The law says you have to take care of the other economically. You are legally regarded as a couple. Gays and lesbians, of course, have very strong feelings about being two individuals in a couple. In our minds, nobody is officially taking care of the other. We don't like it that in marriage the man is the ruler and she is just to be there to make food and so on. And I

know they've had trouble with this in Holland and have said they're not going to try to have a kind of homosexual marriage.

But what we in Denmark have said is that equal rights are basic. So, if you can get married as a heterosexual, I want to be able to get mar-

ried—even if I don't want personally to get married—I should have the right.

RW: So, how did Danish activists circumvent this economic unit problem?

ES: The discussion, of course, has been quite touchy for years. We asked not to have this economic binding in the gay partnership law, but the Social Democrats and the Socialistic Folk Party said, 'You can't get something and not get it all. You have to have the responsibility when you get the freedom.' So, they insisted on equalizing heterosexual and homosexual marriage.

So, we finally felt that equal rights are more important than this economic problem. In our minds, we'll still be individuals though the law regards us as something else. We also knew that if we got this bill through, then we could get heterosexuals who are living together without papers to join us in changing both marriage law and the gay partnership law.

RW: Philosophically, why was Denmark first? The world thinks of Denmark as sexually free, but it must be more complicated than that.

ES: It has something to do with the Lutheran religious tradition which has opened itself up to different kinds of thinking. That does something to the community and thoughts become more free. If we had had a Catholic state church, it would have been more difficult. In Holland, you have different religions but here the power of the church is not very big anymore.

RW: Tell me about the strictly political side of your success.



NOBODY'S COOK
LBL's Else Slange

Photo: Rex Wockner

ES: We came to personally know a lot of politicians and that opened up the chance to go into discussion and to put the myths [about homosexuality] on the table. I think that what we have now and what we got from the lobbying is the possibility for people to ask us questions so that we get visible.

It is very difficult for heterosexuals to come and ask me general questions about homosexuality. But what they were able to do is discuss the [marriage] bill with me. So, it opened up the discussion.

RW: What advice would you give to gay leaders in other Western countries? It [gay marriage] seems a bit impossible presently in the U.S.

ES: Even in San Francisco, Los Angeles?

RW: Marriage laws are state laws—as in the 50 states—and California as a whole is not particularly liberal.

ES: Well, that is a difficult question for me. I've never been there and I don't know the community or very many U.S. gays and lesbians. What I can talk about is gays and lesbians in mainstream politics. We must get involved with politicians—make them learn about you, know what you are and how you are and how you think—and we must get people in mainstream politics to be open as gays and lesbians. Perhaps that's old news, so I'm not sure I have any new advice.

RW: Some gay leaders think gays don't have enough faith in themselves, that we're kind of our own worst enemies. When I don't kiss my boyfriend goodbye at the metro stop, perhaps I could have and no one would have cared.

ES: Yes, self-censorship. I understand that. I have a splinter of that. We have that in Denmark. But I live in Copenhagen. If I were living in a town in North Jutland [rural Denmark], I think I should be more self-censoring. It's not anything to go down the street hand-in-hand in Copenhagen. The Danish TV took pictures of it yesterday and nobody looked. Well, they looked because there were TV cameras. That's Copenhagen. It differs in small cities and villages. It can be very difficult to be the only two [gays] in a

See **ELSE** on page 29

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

The Other Side of Denmark

by Rex Wockner

ODDER, Denmark—After the emotional high of covering the world's first 11 legal gay marriages in Copenhagen, I spent a few days in the small Danish town of Odder, visiting Peter Jorgensen and his wife Stine. Peter was an exchange student at my high school in 1974.

Odder is about 20 kilometers from Aarhus, Denmark's second largest city, on the northern Jutland peninsula, a rural and conservative part of the country.

It was a Thursday night and I headed off in search of the only gay bar—The PAN Club. Like the Copenhagen PAN Club, the Aarhus club is operated by the national activist group Landsforeningen for Bosser og Lesbiske (LBL).

I got a really nice t-shirt out of my brief visit to the Aarhus club, but unfortunately Thursday night was "ladies night," as the bartender put it.

"So, where do I meet gay men?" I asked.

"The only place, really, is to cruise the harbor, down by Pier 2," he said.

Since journalists are required to be curious, I headed off to do my duty. What I found, to my surprise, was cruising nirvana.

Pier 2—huge, badly lit, and very warehouse motif—was covered by large stacks of lumber with just enough space between the piles for walkways and private niches. I wandered around the maze in the cool night air for an hour or so, chatting with the cruisers and doing the things one does in such a situation.

And then suddenly someone ran by shouting that we all had to get out fast because two cars of fag-bashers had arrived on the scene.

Now, when you're from Chicago, it's a little difficult to feel unsafe at any time in Denmark, but I figured the risk might be real and wandered back to the pier entrance.

The fag-bashers, it turned out, were five teenaged boys and one teenaged girl. After they had scared away all the men, they retreated to a picnic table at a fast-food stand across the street from the pier entrance.

By then, the only homosexual on the scene was me. And the journalist in me had to see the other side of the world's first marriage country.

I sat in my car about 200 yards from the food stand and watched the five boys put on a show.

They blew me kisses. They kissed each other on the lips. They yelled "fag" at me in Danish. They grabbed each other from behind and simulated anal intercourse.

My news nose led me closer. I parked at the food stand, walked in and ordered a hot chocolate.

As I waited for the powder to dissolve in the tepid water, one boy laid another down on a picnic table, threw his legs up in the air and began aggressive simulated screwing.

I walked outside and sat at the next table. The fake sex, real kissing, winking and (I'm guessing here) verbal fag-bashing continued.

After ten minutes, I spoke. (Danes study English from fifth grade on.)

"In America..." I began in loud, slow English. They stared at me.

"In America," I said, "when somebody seems to hate homosexuals as much as you do, we believe that they are really homosexuals themselves—homosexuals who haven't yet accepted their homosexuality and are directing their bad feelings about themselves toward others."

Silence.

And then all six of them quickly left.

Within seconds, their car sped around the front of the fast food stand.

"Faggot!" somebody yelled out the car window, in perfect English.

I wandered back over to the pier, but it was deserted.

So don't think Denmark is another planet.

It is your basic bourgeois, industrialized, expensive, angst-ridden modern social-democratic state. Not so different from the U.S.—just a little more socialized, a little wealthier, a little mellower. It doesn't feel like a "foreign country." Heck, a higher percentage of Danes speak English than New Yorkers.

So, I walked up to Eigil just after his marriage and asked him what he had to say to gay and lesbian couples in other countries who might hope to someday be married.

Eigil did not hesitate: "If everyone comes out of the closet, then this will happen everywhere. Be open. Come out. Keep fighting. This is the only way to move anything."

Hardly a news bulletin.

We already know that the reason the "Chicago is not Copenhagen" and the U.S. is not Denmark has nothing to do with fundamentalists, with the Human Rights Commission, with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, with Jesse Helms and Cardinal O'Connor.

We already know it has nothing to do with any of the things we might try to blame it on.

The fault, we know, lies with most of us.

Most of us haven't told our boss, our grandma, our barber, our Catholic aunts and uncles, and the strangers on the subway that we are homosexuals.

We haven't told them, so they don't know what a homosexual looks like.

We don't kiss goodbye on the subway, so they don't know that homosexuals love each other.

And—Quel Mystery!—that's all there is to why "Chicago (and the rest of the country) is not Copenhagen."

Check it out with Axel and Eigil—the first legally married homosexuals in the world.

Forty years ago, before there were any gay newspapers to bitch at you, they did what you, for some unknown reason, are still afraid to do:

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News

Long-Debated Funding Bill Finalized by Joint Committee

Congress: Money for AIDS, not for Bleach

by Cliff O'Neill

WASHINGTON—After two days of bargaining between the House and Senate versions of the 1990 Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill, members of the joint conference committee resolved a host of AIDS and gay-related amendments, most of them to the satisfaction of lesbian, gay and AIDS activists.

Of greatest interest to community lobbyists was the conference's deletion of a Senate amendment, sponsored by Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R-NH), which banned the use of federal funds to create educational materials which "promote or encourage" homosexuality, or use words which describe homosexuality as being "normal," "natural" or "healthy." The amendment, which was strongly supported in the Senate in September, but later side-stepped in the House by a procedural motion, was similar to another amendment offered by Humphrey last year. Last year's rider was also deleted in conference.

"We're happy to see the conferees are constituent in their feeling about this amendment," stated National Gay and Lesbian Task Force lobbyist Peri Jude Radecic. "This vote certainly shows this is an unnecessary amendment to this bill and this is the second time they've sent this message."

The most carefully watched amendment on the AIDS front was a provision attached in Senate committee which provides \$30 million to again extend a 1987 one-time grant to provide AIDS drugs to low income AIDS patients. The funds have been most typically used to provide AZT, the only federally approved anti-HIV drug, to indigent AIDS patients not qualifying for state

Medicaid programs.

The last extension of the grant, made last Spring by Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, ran out in most states Sept. 25. A three-year authorization for a Low Income Treatment and Assistance Program, which would provide a long-term solution to the annual problem, is attached to the Budget Reconciliation Act, which is currently pending before Congress.

Other matters resolved in the

conference committee were:

—A Senate amendment, sponsored by Helms, that mandated that states institute programs to notify the legal spouses of the HIV-infected or risk their AIDS funding, was deleted. Instead, the current guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control, which urge states to make allowances for the notification of sexual and needle sharing partners of the HIV-infected, was placed into the committee's report language.



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
NGLTF's Peri Jude Radecic

Photo: Cliff O'Neill

—The funding for a controversial study of American sexual practices, intended to gauge the patterns of spread of HIV, stayed out of the bill, after being taken out by a House subcommittee. Although the funding for the actual survey is not in the bill, the financing for a pilot survey remains and the funding for the actual study could be introduced in next year's bill, lobbyists state.

—Specific earmarks for AIDS research dollars, removed by the House and later replaced by the Senate, were retained.

—A Senate amendment, co-sponsored by Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-

MA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT), providing \$50 million for a home care program for AIDS patients was trimmed down to \$20 million for the first-time line item.

—The CDC, whose budget this year reaches \$450 million, suffered a budget cut of \$3 million from its AIDS budget.

The committee reports will now be sent to both chambers where they will vote on the matters which are still in contention. As members vote to approve the changes made in the committee, members of either chamber can express objections to the conference's changes, although usually that does not occur. ▼

Abortion, Maybe, Needle Exchange, No

by Cliff O'Neill

WASHINGTON—Relaxing federal abortion restrictions, the U.S. House voted on October 11 to allow public money to fund abortions terminating pregnancies resulting from rape or incest. Such use of Medicaid funds has been prohibited for the past 13 years.

But the vote brought with it an amendment banning the federal funding of clean needle exchange programs intended to stem the spread of AIDS among IV-drug users.

The amendment, sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), would ban the federal funding of programs distributing clean needles or bleach to I.V. drug users, unless such programs are determined to be useful by the president.

Immediately after the Wednesday abortion funding vote, Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), who also sponsored the abortion measure, introduced a second amendment intended to block out any other riders on the final Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill. Motions had been expected on other abortion issues and the funding of gay-positive school curriculums.

The Boxer rider amended the Helms needle exchange ban to state that if the president determines that such distribution programs are effective, the General Accounting Office will be instructed to conduct a survey

on the effectiveness of such programs. The Boxer rider passed by a 212-207 vote, blocking further amendments to the larger bill.

Congress is now awaiting final word from the White House on whether or not President Bush will veto the Labor HHS appropriations bill, because it allows for the limited funding of Medicaid abortions. Although administration officials are pressing him for a veto, Bush has not yet spoken on the issue himself.

If he does veto the bill, the abortion funding matter becomes an issue again, and if the language is stripped, so is the Helms needle distribution ban.

The Helms needle and bleach distribution amendment initially passed the Senate by a 99-0 vote and lobbyists expected a similar landslide vote in the House, had it come to a vote there.

To make the best of what they say is a bad situation, AIDS lobbyists are saying they will press the White House to conduct the GAO survey under the Boxer rider in order to have some ammunition with which to support needle distribution programs, which they say is scarce right now. Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA), minority chair of the Senate Labor HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, has asked for hearings on needle distribution programs to be held next year. ▼

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Out Takes

Women loving women

NEW YORK—To discover the magic of women getting together to share their experiences, Identity House is sponsoring its seventh annual Women's Conference. Titled "Women Loving Women," the conference will be held during the last week of October and the first two

weeks of November at Identity House's 544 Sixth Avenue location.

Co-chairing the conference with Betty McGuiness, Carolyn Pope said she is excited about the new three-week format, which will allow women the choice of attending many more workshops than was possible during past conferences. Previously the workshops were all scheduled for a single day. "Now a person could get to almost every single one of them if they wanted to," Pope told *OutWeek*.

This year more than 20 workshops are being offered such as those dealing with friendship, coming out, body image, sexuality, boundaries and merging, unblocking creative

blocks, butch and femme, aging and lesbian mothers. Augmenting the traditional Identity House line up, Pope pointed out, were the two new workshops on financial planning and organizing legal affairs. These new kinds of workshops are an attempt by the agency to broaden its definition of women loving women. "We include as many topics as we can for a very diverse community," Pope added. For the first time, non-Identity House members will be presenting workshops along with the therapists and peers at Identity House.

New York's oldest peer counseling organization for the lesbian, gay and bisexual community, Identity



WASHINGTON — Big wigs say cheese at a Human Rights Campaign Fund fundraiser on October 7th, during the Quilt Weekend in Washington. Honored were singer Dionne Warwick, who received an award for her work in AIDS, and New York activists Victor Basile, who received a political achievement award from the lesbian and gay lobbying organization. Pictured left to right: Entertainer Peter Allen, Mary Jane Gallo, National Cancer Institute's Dr. Robert Gallo, Dionne Warwick, HRCF Executive Director Tim McFeeley, sex expert Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Victor Basile, actor Martin Sheen and writer Fran Leibowitz.

—A.M.

Photo: Patsy Lynch

House was established in 1971. The registration fee for one or two workshops is \$15 each, while three are available for \$35. An additional \$7 is required for each additional workshop over that number. A special package of ten workshops is available for \$70. More information, a brochure and registration form can be obtained by calling (212) 243-8181. The conference is open to all lesbian and bisexual women.

—Jon Nalley

All in the family

NEW YORK—Center Kids, an organization for lesbian and gay parents and their children and lesbian and gay men interested in becoming parents, will host the first in a continuing series of workshops entitled "Legal Issues for Gay Families" on Saturday, October 21 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center. The workshop will address issues related to lesbians and gay men and their familial relationships.

The workshop will feature Paula Ettelbrick, Legal Director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Judith Turkel, co-chair of Lambda and partner in Turkel and Nissen, two experts on the law as it pertains to gay and lesbian couples. Attorneys Ettelbrick and Turkel will discuss issues and documents such as medical powers of attorney, wills, appointments of executors and trustees, co-parenting, guardianship, joint tenancy and common property agreements.

"Lesbians and gay men cannot assume the protection of the law or the courts," said attorney Susan Hendricks, one of the workshop's coordinators. "We must have *everything* in writing."

Workshop participants should pre-register by calling Susan at (212) 353-8592 or Peggy at (212) 362-5616. Donations of \$5 per adult will be collected at the door and free on-site childcare will be provided. The Community Center is located at 208 West 13th Street in Manhattan.

—Keith Miller

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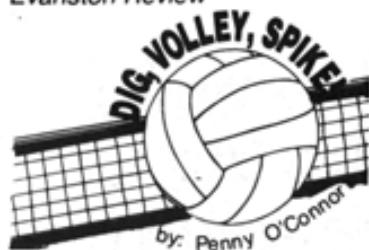
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APARTMENTS

Movin' on up

WASHINGTON—Pat Roche recently became President of Dignity/USA and named AIDS ministry as the leading item on a five-point agenda for the national lesbian and gay Catholic movement. Dignity, with over 100 chapters nationwide, works for the rights of gay men and lesbians to participate in the Catholic Church, as well as providing religious services and social opportunities for gay and lesbian Catholics.

Roche was elected President at Dignity/USA's 20th anniversary convention in San Francisco last month. His platform also called for fuller participation by women in Dignity and in the Church, Church condemnation of violence against lesbians and gay men, Church support for laws protecting the civil rights of gay people and Church respect for personal dissent.

A native of Seattle, Roche has a B.A. from St. Martin's College in Olympia, Washington, and an M.A. in English from Seattle University. Over



DIGNITY'S PAT ROCHE

the past twenty years, he has held management positions in communications, corporate marketing, and planning in the financial services industry.

In addition to 100 chapters across the country, Dignity/USA has a national office in Washington D.C.

For a list of chapters or for more information about Dignity write to Dignity/USA, 1500 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, or call (202) 861-0017. ▼

NGLTF from page 17

es and now a volunteer at the Lesbian Herstory Archives in Manhattan, Wolfe said she is often asked, "If a cure for AIDS happened tomorrow, wouldn't all those gay men go home and not care about access issues? Probably a lot would, just like all the women who went home after [the U.S. Supreme Court's] *Roe vs. Wade* decision, and only came out when [it] was threatened again this year," she said.

"The reality is that poor women and, because of institutional racism, women of color and young women and rural women have not had access to abortion for years. Where were these women in 1977," she asked, "when a Democratic Congress cut Medicaid funding for abortions?"

"Many strong, articulate women have been lost because the movement has been about men for way too long," argued Porter. "We've started to include the voices of women, often PWAs, but we haven't expanded that vision."

"AIDS activists are creating a system that will go on long after this disease is wiped out. We're going to be



talking about HIV infection and all of its ramifications for, unfortunately, a long time. We [must] include other people who are disabled in our vision of what tomorrow will be," Porter said.

Levi praised activists' efforts that have resulted in AIDS drugs being made available more quickly, but cautioned that a "non-systematic



BUILDING A MOVEMENT

Maxine Wolfe

Photo: John Zeh

response...highlights and expands inequities in our nation's health care system." Pressure for free drugs and access to experimental protocols is "an important systematic reform and must be integrated into overall health care financing structure," he said. "People must not withdraw from the battle now that our piece of the problem has been advanced [or] disappear when poverty and equity issues come to the table. Systematic change is what we're after."

Looking back 10 years, Wolfe critiqued many groups, including her own, and said common traits shared by ones that have splintered or dissolved included an outdated concept of organizing, an unwillingness to reach outside of their known constituencies, and a rigid set of politics around which everyone had to agree. "You couldn't question anything, or you were suspect," she said.

Wolfe said she "found hope" on July 4, 1986, when thousands "marched into throngs of tourists" at the Statue of Liberty centennial celebration "against the desires of mainstream gay leaders who thought it would look bad if we disrupted the party. I realized that the community was ahead of its leadership and will-

ing to put their bodies on line at the right moment.

"ACT UP is not a be-all and end-all," Wolfe conceded. "It has problems, but it is a place where I can be a lesbian, a woman and an activist. I have seen people develop a political perspective, including myself. This is the first real organizing I feel I have ever done in 30 years. People have become more openly gay and developed a gay-liberation, not a gay-rights perspective. Two years ago no one talked about national health care. Now we have a committee and we're organizing with unions."

She said she joined the AIDS action group two and a half years ago, because it is "run democratically, has no party line, enjoys a sense of visual, and uses the media without



BUILDING COALITIONS

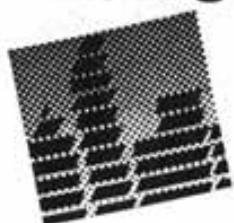
Charles Stewart

Photo: John Zeh

catering to it. They are organizing not from some abstract concept, but to save their lives and the lives of people they care about. They were pro-sex at a time when sex was being connected to death," Wolfe said.

"ACT UP is a true coalition. Everyone puts up with everyone else's craziness. They appreciate [what each individual can contribute] and have a shared commitment to saving our lives. I am not on the periphery of the periphery anymore. For the first time, rather than feeling I am reacting to exclusion, and responding from the margin, I feel I am acting from my center, but not from the mainstream. I feel I am helping build a movement that is mine, rather than to fit into somebody else's," she added. ▼

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DEMO from page 16

candles in signs of support, the throng heard pleas for affordable, accessible drugs for people with AIDS and HIV infection, and equal access for women, children and people of color to clinical drug trials for potential AIDS treatments. And they heard songs, supplications for an end to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Cleve Jones, founder of the NAMES Project International AIDS Memorial Quilt, placed the responsibility for increased AIDS action squarely on the steps of the White

House.

"Please, Mr. President," Jones said, "meet with us.... You will see it is we who are kind, we who are gentle, Mr. President."

The nighttime demonstration culminated over 24 hours of AIDS-related demonstrations in the capital, all focusing on different aspects of the AIDS epidemic, and all directed at the president and Congress.

A day earlier, a band of 150 demonstrators, many from the Washington-based gay and lesbian direct action group OUT! (Oppression

Under Target), staged a loud, angry demonstration on the White House and the neighboring U.S. Treasury, calling for a "War for AIDS Drugs."

The morning of Oct. 7, a larger group of approximately 500 AIDS activists, led by a group called Anger Into Direct Action, joined a larger march of almost 250,000 to demand affordable housing for the thousands of people with AIDS living on city streets nationwide.

Opening their demonstration with a silent march around The Ellipse, where the AIDS quilt was being displayed, the protesters carried signs decrying the president's response to the joint crisis of AIDS and homelessness, before staging a "die-in" on the street in front of the White House.

The activists dropped to the ground in symbolic protest while others chalked their outlines on the pavement. "We die, they do nothing!" they chanted.

After merging with the larger march, which organizers state numbered at 250,000 strong, the AIDS activists marched to the Capitol to join the demands for housing for the nation's homeless. U.S. Park Service officials numbered the crowd at 40,000.

And amid a laundry list of entertainment and government luminaries, rock stars and folk singers, one frail man took the stage.

Ralph Hernandez, a homeless man with AIDS and a Vietnam veteran, told his pained tale of how he became addicted to drugs, left his wife and children and found himself with no place to get treatment for his condition and no decent place to live.

"The government is sick," he stated. "Here I was dying. I had sores all over my body, so deep I could touch my bones. My clothes stuck to my skin. And no matter how many showers I took, I stunk because my skin was rotting and they told me to just stop shooting."

Robert Bray of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force later said, "We realize AIDS and homelessness and gay youth and homelessness are real issues. We're one of the richest minorities in the country and many of our people are suffering through a

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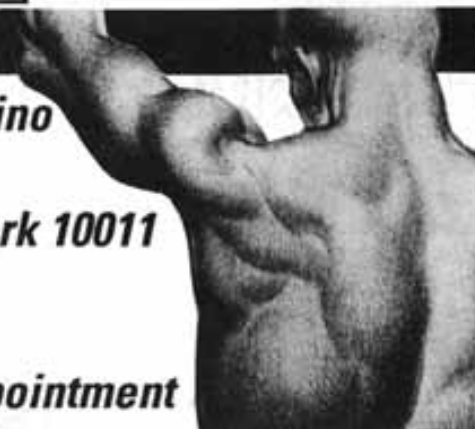
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lack of affordable and decent housing. We have to use our resources to pressure the government to fund housing, especially for our people with AIDS." ▼

CONTACT TRACING from page 13

it's just absolutely absurd.... Why not spend the money getting treatments out there to people?"

Joseph has not been alone in his strong advocacy for confidential testing and partner notification. U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan announced at a conference in August that federal funds would be made available for HIV testing programs, but not for medical treatment of HIV illness.

New York State's Division of Substance Abuse Services has received such federal funding from the Centers for Disease Control to begin performing confidential HIV testing as part of drug treatment programs.

Public health officials from Colorado, a state with mandatory reporting of HIV test results and contact tracing have praised Joseph's commitment to confidential testing and tracing. Another New York official, City Council Health Committee chair Joseph Lisa, has also expressed interest in contact tracing. At the Montreal AIDS Conference, Lisa attended a panel on partner notification and questioned Colorado health officials about the applicability of their system to the New York context.

As a practical matter, many public health experts think that contact tracing is absurd and impossible in New York City, where more than 25,000 AIDS cases have been diagnosed to date, and many times that number are believed to be HIV-infected. And because confidentiality provisions are mandated by state, not city, laws in New York, the practicality of Joseph's proposals is questionable.

The timing of Joseph's renewed effort, as the Koch administration draws to a close, also raises questions. In Pettyjohn's opinion, "He's pushing to do this because it's always been his thing, and it's his ego saying, 'I'm going to get this through before I get tossed out of office.'"

Others have speculated that the effort is Joseph's attempt to draw the attention of the federal government AIDS establishment in the hopes of a plum job.

When told of Joseph's revived effort, the Dinkins campaign reaffirmed the Democratic mayoral candidate's commitment to anonymous HIV testing and opposition to contact tracing. Though they say that Dinkins would not make specific staffing announcements until after the election, a staffer indicated that he expects Joseph will be replaced. ▼

ELSE from page 19

small village. But those conservative thoughts will be altered by the right to marry. It has changed already. My lover and I were on state television and got the opportunity to say all that we wanted.

RW: Will you get married?

ES: No. I'm very happy about the organization's victory, it means acceptance and legal rights. But I have a personal ideological opposition against it because of the economic relationship. I should be frightened if all that is in [heterosexual] marriage today should be put over into the [gay/lesbian] partnerships—that you should go into those bad ways of living together with one ruling and the other being ruled. I wouldn't get married if I were a heterosexual. But I'm happy now for the ones who want it and now can get it. They can choose. ▼

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Political Science

Drug Wars

CD4 vs. Peptide T

by Mark Harrington

"The modern doctor may be likened to a weapons specialist manning [sic] the push-button console of a missile launcher."

—William A. Silverman, MD, *Human Experimentation: A Guided Step into the Unknown*

What is the self-image of modern medicine conjured up by this remark? Medicine is 1) masculine 2) technological 3) remote from the field upon which it operates and 4) essentially militaristic in nature. This view would be less depressing if the products of today's medical-industrial complex weren't so often just as overpriced, inefficient and destructive as the Sergeant York gun or the Stealth bomber.

HIV was discovered in 1983 by a French scientist, Françoise Barre-Sinoussi. The next year, two men, Luc Montagnier in France and Robert Gallo in the U.S., began a quarrel over which of *them* had discovered the new retrovirus. Barre-Sinoussi's role was virtually forgotten.

Shoddy treatment of women in science was not news for Candace Pert, PhD, a neuropharmacologist. While still a graduate student in the early 1970s, Pert discovered the opiate receptor, a molecule on the surface of brain and immune cells which

receives endorphins—natural proteins which stimulate pleasure centers in the brain, and which become depleted in the presence of heroin or other opiates.

Discovery overlooked

Such research breakthroughs usually lead to scientific honors. In the mid-1970s, the Lasker Prize, a prestigious award which often precedes the Nobel, was awarded to Pert's mentor and two British scientists who discovered the opiate receptor shortly after she had. Pert was entirely overlooked, because she had been a mere graduate student when she made the discovery, because she was too young to be deemed worthy of such an honor, or because she was a woman.

In the 1980s, Pert worked at the National Institute of Mental Health

often on T4 helper cells but also on as many as 11 other human cell types.

HIV uses its surface protein gp120 (glycoprotein 120) to latch onto the CD4 receptor. gp120 connects with the receptor and HIV's membrane then fuses with the cell surface, delivering its RNA into the cell.

Identifying this crucial gp120-CD4 interaction suggested several ways to disrupt their attachment and prevent viral infection of new cells. One way would be to use cells imitating the CD4 receptor to connect with the virus before it encountered a susceptible cell. This theory led to the development of recombinant soluble CD4, a drug under study by four competing pharmaceuticals. CD4 is popular within the AIDS establishment. It is expensive, high-tech and offers the chance for huge profits.

No clinical effects

CD4 is a large molecule that doesn't penetrate the blood-brain barrier. Its half-life is very short—one hour or less in the blood. Early clinical trials showed no side effects, no

changes in immune or viral markers and no clinical effects whatsoever. Nonetheless, buoyed by multimillion dollar investments and close links to prominent AIDS researchers like Samuel Broder and Robert Gallo at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), plans are being made for broad Phase II trials of this expensive, inert, inconvenient

(intravenously infused) drug.

Another idea, developed by Pert and her colleagues at NIMH, was both simpler and more creative. She did not focus exclusively on what CD4 receptors did in the presence of HIV. Pert went one step forward to ask what CD4 receptors are for in the first place.

Vasoactive intestinal peptide



(NIMH), a branch of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration. Her specialty, building on past successes, was cell receptors. After HIV was discovered, researchers sought to find out how HIV gained entry into human cells. Quickly it became apparent that the virus used the CD4 molecule, the receptor found most

(VIP) is a natural molecule found throughout the body. Its receptor is CD4. According to Pert, "VIP is a 28-amino acid peptide with a broad range of biological activities in diverse tissues. VIP causes vasodilation [blood vessel dilation] and the secretion of water and electrolytes; promotes glycogenolysis, lipolysis and glucose utilization; modulates pituitary secretion; has a variety of effects on immune system function; excites neurons; and has growth-promoting functions in the CNS [central nervous system]."¹

Swedish researcher Victor Mutt discovered VIP in 1971. More recently, he found that VIP is especially common in the forebrain and in the thymus gland—where T cells mature.

Pert discovered that an 8-peptide chain mimicked both a sequence on the gp120 HIV surface protein and a sequence of VIP. She hypothesized that this chain, named Peptide T, might occupy the side on the CD4 receptor that would otherwise be vulnerable to gp120. If this was so, the cell might elude infection.

Novel theory

Her theory of AIDS was novel because it involved more interaction between the brain and the immune system than the NIH virologists were willing to consider. It was also unorthodox in proposing that many of HIV's pathogenic effects, especially in the brain, were not caused by HIV killing cells directly, but rather by a toxic cascade of free gp120 particles damaging neurons. For every whole virus made, HIV-infected cells create thousands of mutants and particles. Perhaps it is these fragments, rather than the whole virus, which produces the dementia and neurological symptoms of AIDS. If so, Peptide T might help reverse such neurological conditions.

For a new treatment with theoretical promise, Peptide T had a very hard time getting into clinical studies. The first trial was conducted in Sweden, because the U.S. AIDS Program did not recommend the drug for its national trials. Four people with advanced AIDS reported some weight

gain, remission of rashes and increases in alertness and neurological performance. Another larger study conducted in Los Angeles produced the same results.

At the Washington AIDS Conference in 1987, Harvard's Dr. Haseltine went out of his way to debunk Peptide T. He claimed that his lab had failed to replicate Peptide T's antiviral effects. Ever since, media coverage of CD4 has been breathless. Few stories pointed out Haseltine's close links with Biogen and Cambridge Biosciences, two companies involved in developing treatments which are competing with Peptide T.

Pert and her colleagues left the NIMH and set up a non-profit research institute, Integra. Integra secured a partnership with pharmaceutical giant Bristol-Myers Co. to develop the drug. Later, distracted by its other antivirals ddI and d4T, Bristol-Myers pulled out of the deal, leaving Integra with no capital to conduct clinical trials.

No toxicity reported

In Spring 1989 a community-based Phase I/II crossover study of Peptide T began at Boston's Fenway Community Health Center. The people in the trial are enthusiastic about the drug, which is inhaled through the nose, and report increased alertness, more dreams, remission of rashes, decreases in diarrhea, weight gain and general well-being. *No toxicity was reported.*

Yet according to Peptide T's detractors, all of these benefits are considered insignificant compared to "surrogate" markers like T4 cell counts and p24 antigen levels. The short, small studies conducted so far may not have

been long enough to measure significant changes in these markers.

In September 1989, Provincetown, Boston and New York activists confronted the AIDS bigwigs at the Surrogate Markers conference in Washington. Why were they so deaf to improved quality of life? Why were they fetishizing surrogate markers and ignoring well-being? The response of the research/regulatory establishment was to impugn the motives of Peptide T's developers and the AIDS advocates alike. NIAID's Dr. Fauci decried the "excessive zeal" of Integra. What drug developer *wouldn't* be zealous about their drug? FDA's Dr. Curt Scridner actually suggested that Integra was subsidizing ACT UP's campaign to get the drug into wider trials.

Provincetown activists invaded the office of NIMH director Dr. Frederick Goodwin, who helped develop Peptide T, and demanded a meeting. One week later, Provincetown, Boston and New York activists met the NIMH developers and demanded that they push Peptide T into wider Phase II trials. Bristol-Myers now claims that Integra has carte blanche to continue developing the drug with another sponsor. NIMH, however, and not Integra, holds the patent. It is up to the NIMH to arrange for the rapid, well-controlled study of Peptide T in people with HIV infection. And it is up to activists to demand that new treatments which improve the quality of life be given the priority they deserve. ▼

1. "AIDS as a Neuropeptide Disorder: Peptide T, VIP, and the HIV Receptor." Candace B. Pert, M.R. Ruff, J.M. Hill. *Psychopharmacology Bulletin* 24:3, 1988, pp. 315-319.

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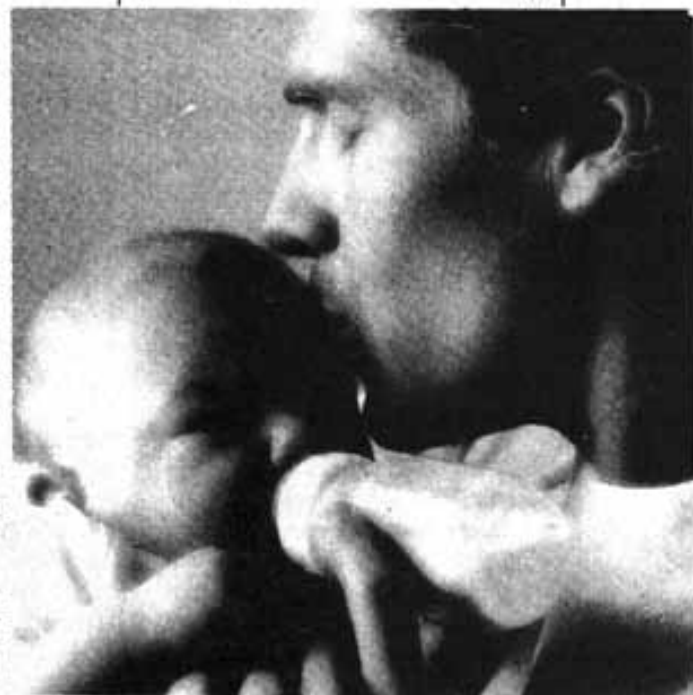
Nothing excites homophobes more than the spectre of lesbians and gays as parents. In the area of foster care, in particular, there have been several well-publicized cases in recent years. In Massachusetts, Governor Michael Dukakis established regulations to keep lesbians and gays from becoming foster parents. The same issue is now coming up in New Jersey, where neanderthal gubernatorial candidate Jim Courter proposes to bar us from becoming foster parents and from teaching in schools. And who could forget the calls—from people who see us in most cases as undesirable parents—for lesbians and gays to become foster parents for HIV antibody positive babies?

New York State law does not prohibit lesbians or gays from adopting or becoming foster parents. That is as much as anyone at the State Department of Social Services seemed to know. But Evan Wolfson, an attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, informed me that in fact, regulations governing the practices of child welfare agencies here explicitly state that "applicants shall not be rejected solely on the basis of homosexuality."

But monitoring and enforcement are nonexistent. State Department of Social Services spokesperson Jane Alderdice didn't even know the state had such a rule. According to Alderdice, "Individual agencies might put some clause [barring lesbians and gays] but we don't control that." She's right that the state doesn't control dis-

crimatory practices in adoption and foster care agencies, although it clearly could under existing regulations.

It comes as no surprise that many of the agencies which actually make foster care placements do in fact discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, some quietly, others explicitly. One gay couple who had already been certified by the State as suitable parents (an extensive six-month-long



screening process) were turned down by 30 agencies around the state over a nine-month period. Although in certain of the cases they feel the agencies had legitimate reasons for turning down their application, "We are intelligent enough to realize that for most agencies the issue was that we were two men."

The happy ending to this particular story is that the couple has since received a foster child, whom they plan to adopt. There are individual agencies with fair-minded, non-discriminatory policies. One such example is Harlem-Dowling Children's Ser-

vices, where a staff member knew about the state non-discrimination regulations and reported, "I know for a fact that we have a couple [of lesbian and gay foster parents], and the children are doing very well."

On the other hand, you have the Catholic Home Bureau. The Archdiocese Communications Director has yet to return my calls, but a staff member revealed the agency's attitude. "They let you apply... It's a grey area, I'd say... You should probably do it through another agency." This agency is not at all unusual. The Mount Loretto Home insisted that if a foster parent were lesbian or gay there could be "no public displays of affection in front of the child." The Society for Seamen's Home for Children disconnected me repeatedly rather than answer my questions. Wayne Steinman, outgoing Comptroller Harrison J. Goldin's liaison to the lesbian and gay community and himself a foster parent, notes, "Legally they cannot discriminate, realistically they do." (For information on supportive agencies contact Center Kids, Community Center's program for lesbian and gay parents and their kids, by leaving a message at (212) 620-7310).

Although it is the state government which regulates adoption and foster care, individual agencies are contracted through the city government. According to John Beckman, a spokesperson for the city Human Resources Administration, which runs the Child Welfare Administration, "We would expect them [individual agencies] to conform to the laws." But

See SANDOR KATZ on page 35

Lessons From a Quilt

by Marc J. Reiss

I had the strangest dream the night before my trip to see the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, which was displayed—for the last time in its entirety—in Washington D.C. last weekend. I dreamt that I was at a party, and the host had provided a conjurer for our amusement. The conjurer was going to astonish us by bringing the dead back to life.

After some mishaps and confusion, the trick was performed, and the dead did come back to life. Friends and family began to appear, all somewhat ghoulish, but alive. Then things started to go unpleasantly haywire in a way only a horror film fan would appreciate. Finally, when the despair of the dream reached its apex, God himself appeared (in the form of an old New York cab driver!), and made all the zombie-friends into real-life people again, who, crying for joy, danced off to enjoy the thrill of being alive.

At that point I woke up, choking back tears, unable to speak. I was crying because I wanted it not to have been just a dream, but reality, as I made my way to the Quilt.

I had stopped in Baltimore the day before so that I wouldn't have to go directly to Washington and back home in one day. The harbor in Baltimore is one of the nicest inner-city spots on the eastern seaboard. It's picturesque without being cloying. In the morning, before rushing for the train, I looked out on the harbor from the roof-top garden of my friend's townhouse, and dreamed of the days when the men in my life who are now panels in a quilt would inspire me, conspire with me, laugh with me,

or just eat and shop with me.

A counselor friend of mine recently told me that many of his young clients feel cheated at not being able to have the care-free sex the guys from the 70s had—the baths, the Pines, the anywhere-I-can sex. I understand that thought, but my sympathies lie with myself and my friends.

We were cheated too—not out of sex, but out of a more meaningful experience. We've been cheated out of the companionships of the prime of our mental and emotional lives. We've spent more time at funerals than have our parents, and in some cases, our grandparents, instead of enjoying the

See QUILT on page 35

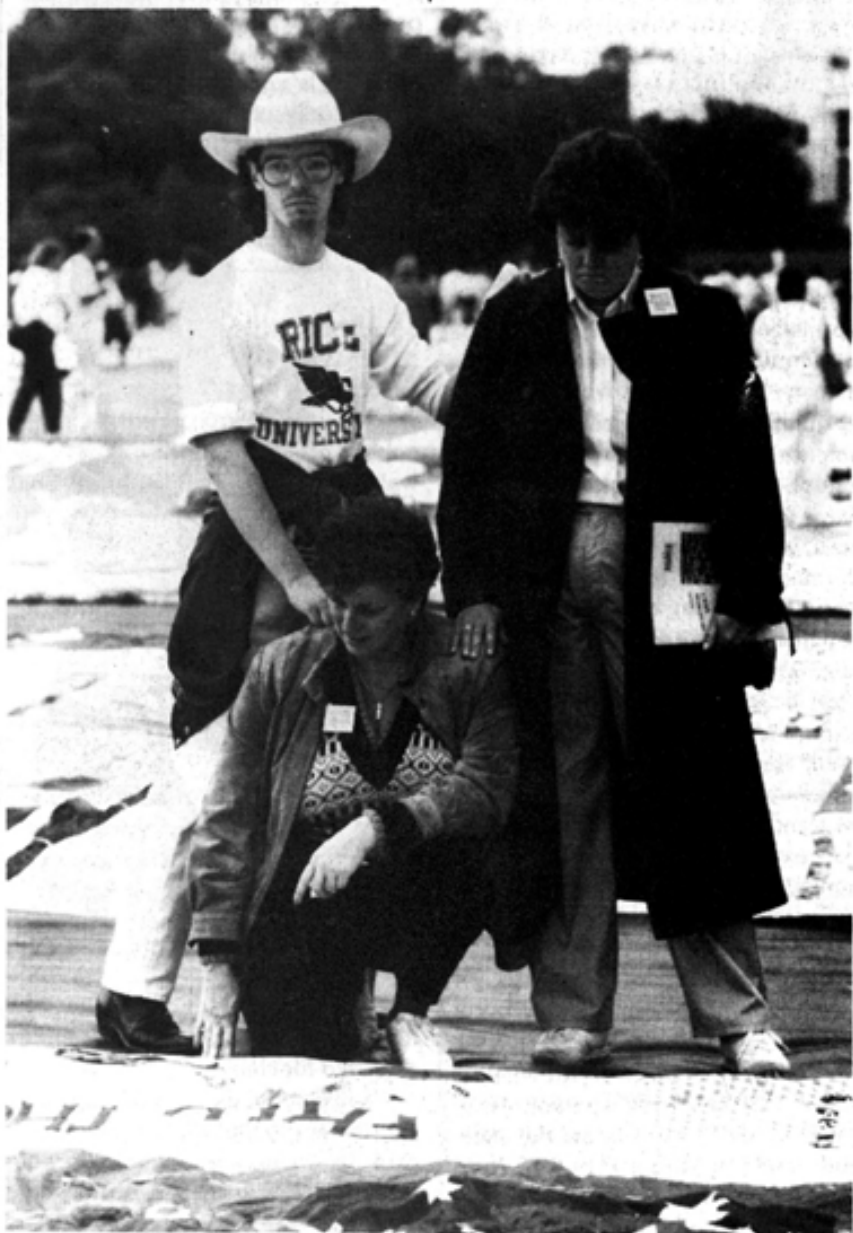


Photo: Patsy Lynch

In Our Own Hands

A Mandatory Test By Any Other Name...

New Jersey's Attack on Women with HIV

by Margaret McCarthy
and David Kirschenbaum

Across the United States, reproductive rights are increasingly under attack. In New York and New Jersey, new inroads into women's ability to make health care and sexual decisions have come in the form of proposals for coerced HIV antibody testing of pregnant women, mothers of newborns and infants.

In the New Jersey State Assembly, bill No. 4299 would require all pregnant women to be tested for HIV antibodies. To refuse the test, a woman would have to object in writing. However, women would not be informed of their right to refuse the test. Under the bill, if a woman refuses the test in writing, her infant would automatically be tested unless the mother objects to that test in writing as well. Since most women will be unaware that they can refuse the test and many will be unwilling to create a written record of their refusal, this is basically a mandatory testing program by another name: "routine" testing. The bill is currently under discussion, but any voting on it will probably occur after the November election.

Bill 4299 is strongly supported by the New Jersey State Department of Health, which issued a press release heralding the testing plan because it would facilitate early intervention in treating HIV infection. There is no funding request attached to the bill,

and the health department did not make their support conditional on approval of funding for accessible preventative care. Right now, the lack of accessible primary care for most impoverished New Jersey residents means that early intervention for HIV infection is an impossibility for the vast majority of HIV positive adults. None of the drugs available for pre-



ventative care in adults such as AZT, Bactrim and aerosol pentamidine, are approved for children.

Since no funds for providing care are attached to the bill, it is basically a plan for testing and identification of HIV positive women. The obvious intent of the plan is to coerce women to have abortions or be sterilized, and

not to provide preventative health care. According to Margot Abels of ACT UP, "Any government interest in providing accessible health care to women is overshadowed by their desire to control women's reproduction."

In New York, the State Department of Health is focusing on women who have just given birth. Since June, the health department has considered several ways to "encourage" mothers of newborns to test. Their planning process has come under fierce criticism from health care workers, advocacy groups and AIDS activists. The first idea was to "unblind" the existing anonymous seroprevalence survey of newborns, and to offer women the opportunity to learn the results. Currently, blood is taken from every newborn in New York State and tested for HIV antibodies, syphilis and other congenital conditions. However, children carry their mother's antibody status for up to their first 18 months of life, and only 40 percent of children born to HIV-infected mothers are themselves infected. Unblinding the study would give the state a list of HIV positive women and children born to infected mothers—without the woman even knowing a test had been done.

This probably violates the New York State HIV confidentiality law, which requires that the HIV antibody test only be done after pre-test counseling and with written consent. Fierce opposition from within and without the health department forced this plan to be abandoned.

But the health department then focused on encouraging women

who were in the hospital recovering from the effects of delivery to test. An idea which was seriously discussed but eventually dropped would have included counseling in the hospital room, followed by drawing the woman's blood if she consented. Women who tested negative would have been informed by letter, and women who tested positive would have been informed through a personal visit from health department workers.

Under the current proposal, counselors will visit women post-delivery in their hospital beds. The women will receive information about the test and the benefits of early clinical intervention. If a woman agrees to test, her results will be forwarded to her post-partum care provider. This program is targeted at women who have not received prenatal care, who are the most likely to test HIV positive and the least likely to receive follow-up care for themselves and their infants. According to health department officials, they wish to encourage women at risk to test, and to facilitate access to post-partum and HIV-related care. Many questions remain unanswered. Will women be encouraged to have abortions or be sterilized? Will known HIV positive women be punished if they become pregnant again? How does the state plan to provide preventative care when the public health care system is already collapsed? How will state intervention affect the relationship between mother and child?

The AIDS crisis has had a disparate impact on poor women and women of color. These women have the least access to the eroding health care system and are the most likely to have reproductive choices taken from them, such as through sterilization abuse. The women who are most at risk for HIV infection are those who have traditionally been denied access to health care and health care decisions. It is no surprise that there are moves afoot to severely restrict HIV positive women's reproductive and sexual choices.

The continuing government inter-

ference into the reproductive choices of poor women and women of color combines here with governmental desires to "do something" about AIDS on a purely moral level. Women are seen purely as vectors of HIV transmission to their "innocent" infants. An HIV positive woman who bears a child is considered a "bad mother"—even though her child may not be infected. State plans to identify such children are obviously useless: because no preventative care is provided to them. Neither the New Jersey nor the New York plan contains funding for primary care. The collapsed public health care system cannot deal with those sick with AIDS let alone those who are asymptomatic and infected with the virus. The New York and New Jersey plans are aimed at identification, containment and control of an already oppressed group. ▼

SANDOR KATZ from page 32

when confronted with the generic case of an agency which discriminates, he said "There's no way I could hypothesize what the recourse might be."

The laws with regard to adoption and foster care are in place in New York State. What is missing is an activist government willing to work for us. Lesbians and gays who wish to be parents are just one of a host of discrimination issues; problems also exist with treatment of lesbian and gay youths by child welfare agencies and foster families, and with kids taken from the custody of lesbian or gay guardians.

When the bureaucrats don't even know that discrimination is prohibited or what enforcement mechanisms are available, how are they going to enforce agency standards and protect our rights?

Of course the biggest victims of all of this are the kids who are stuck in institutions without homes or families. Lesbian and gay parents are a tremendous unexplored possibility for many of them. Says Steinman, "There's such a shortfall of foster homes, I suggested they [the city Child Welfare Administration] do an outreach at the Community Center.

They refused. They said, 'It would be inappropriate. It's too touchy.'

The women's liberation slogan rings true: "The hand that rocks the cradle rocks the boat." ▼

QUILT from page 33

richness of our friendships, the love and closeness that only the people you've known forever bring.

For some of us, the Quilt is the only physical place in the world where we can be with these boys again. I've thought about the arguments that the Quilt takes time and money away from more needed AIDS causes. But I don't agree. Helping the living cope with death is a worthy cause, too, and ultimately it may make us stronger for helping in other ways. I know I was thinking this when I arrived at the Ellipse, behind the White House and in front of the Washington Monument, to see this incredible expression of grief and love that is the Quilt.

There were tears and reunions and solitude. There were plain panels and outrageous panels and silly ones and profound ones. I found the one I was looking for and snapped a picture, and I added a new name to the "Write-In" panel. But in a strange way, most of all I was glad to see the volunteers.

The volunteers were all dressed in white, and were walking around, many with packets of tissues, there to guide or answer questions. One wore a sticker which said "Emotional Support," and I started to cry just thinking that this stranger had come here so that it would be OK for people like me to cry.

I stayed a few hours and then came home. Sometimes it's hard to go on living when you think of all we've been through, and all we're going to go through still. But I guess if people care enough to make Quilt panels, if strangers care enough to help you cry, and if harbors and boats and little cafes and favorite boutiques can bring back good memories, I'll take another breath and see what I can do. ▼

All In The Family



PASSING ON THE EMPIRE
Craig Burns and John Eberhardt

Photo: Scott Morgan

Is adoption an alternative for lesbians and gays seeking legally-sanctioned relationships?
by Jay Blotcher

When John and Craig met in an Upper East Side bar in September, 1980, it could have been another classical Manhattan tale of two tricks passing in the night. The pair had little in common. Craig Burns was blond, boyish, 23. He was between jobs, visiting friends in New York. John Eberhardt, 58, was a Fire Island pioneer, having hammered together scores of beach houses in Cherry Grove during the 1940s before constructing his own wedding cake of a mansion, The Belvedere.

Nonetheless, John and Craig did what mismatched people often do. They fell in love. The next week John invited Craig out to the island and, as Craig recalls, "I kinda never left." This past spring, months shy of their ninth anniversary, the couple went one step further to acknowledge their relationship; Craig Burns became Craig Eberhardt. In a judge's chambers in West Palm Beach, John legally adopted his lover. Craig became his son.

* * * *

Adoption is yet another alternative for gays and lesbians who seek legal recognition of their relationships. Many do it to ensure financial protection for lovers in the event of their death; others see it as the only same-sex union likely to be sanctioned by the law in this era.

But adoption is not a foolproof shelter against the bigotry of our legal system. In the early 1980s in New York State, gay adoptions caused a stir in the legal system, challenging the definition of adoption and provoking progressive decisions in two important cases: Adult Anonymous I and II.

In the latter, handled by Lambda Legal Defense Fund's William J. Thom and heard in 1982, a 32-year-old male petitioned to adopt a 43-year-old. Partial motivation was financial; the building where the pair lived was going co-op and the landlord was evicting those not on the

lease. Initially dismissed by Family Court, City of New York, the petitioners appealed the case to the State Supreme Court Appellate Division. The decision was reversed and petition granted, since the Family Court decision was based on its narrow interpretation of the nature of family, not the adoption statute itself, which expresses no limitations. "The 'nuclear family' arrangement is no longer the only model of family life in America," the decision challenged.

In addition, constitutional law was cited, where homosexual relations in private are protected in New York under the right to privacy. Through some circuitous logic, it was proposed that a petition for a father-son adoption by two homosexual men raised the spectre of technical incest. However, it was ruled that "incest in general involves blood relatives." More facetious was the subsequent observation: "And, of course, the taboo against incest, grounded in eugenics, has little application in a relationship which can hardly result in offspring."

However, these legal strides were to be reversed two years later. The New York State Court of Appeals, filtering decisions through a screen of homophobia, effectively put a halt to overtly homosexual same-sex adoptions by lovers. In the Matter of the Adoption of Robert Paul P. in 1984, a 57-year-old man was denied his petition to adopt his 50-year-old lover, although they had lived together continuously for 25 years.

Michael Lavery, a New York City lawyer and co-founder of the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, handled the case. Lavery, a consistent fighter for gay and lesbian rights, has argued cases for Dignity, the gay Catholic group, and Integrity, the Episcopal sect. He acknowledges the misstep made by the two lovers: they did not attempt to hide the sexual nature of their relationship. The legal gay-bashing continued; the court questioned the validity of adoption as a way to halt an eviction. "It is nothing more than a cynical distortion of the function of adoption."

Most damning of all is this paragraph: "Adoption was never intended as a haven where parties might shelter emotional relationships for which no statutory provision has been made. If the homosexual relationship is to receive legal sanction as a family unit, such recognition must come from the legislature, and not the courts through the

guise of adoption."

* * *

John and Craig were inseparable during the first three months together. In December, the pair were visiting John's cousin, who is also gay, in California. Walking through the celebrated Forest Lawn Cemetery one sunny afternoon, observing the gaudy sculpture and meticulous landscaping, John and Craig came upon a small stone bench. Carved into the decoration was an Irish quotation about true love lasting forever. The lovers impulsively joined hands and recited the quote. "From then on, we decided we were a married couple," Craig said.

But both knew that a two-minute wedding in a cemetery held no legal weight. And as the years passed, and John and Craig grew closer, they began thinking about events that could separate them. The question of a legal relationship became more insistent this past year. A friend of the couple, a septuagenarian psychologist from Manhattan had successfully adopted his 54-year-old lover in order to pass on his magnificent Riverside Drive apartment after he passed on. At the age of 65, John was still hardy and working on constant improvements to The Belvedere. But the issue of a successor loomed, he recalled. Who would look after his 26-room palace?

"For one thing, passing on *this empire*" — Eberhardt assumes a mock hauteur to his voice — "it takes the right kind of person. I don't know who could do it, except for someone who is talented and capable. My older brother or sister just couldn't manage this, what with the milieu of the town, this gay world." Craig was the only choice.

Craig's concerns about a legal relationship with John were just as keen. "In the case of catastrophic illness, I would be John's next of kin and would have the say about his care and well-being, as opposed to a family throwing me out on the street and putting him in a nursing home." In addition, the pair learned that real estate passed on from father to son is taxed differently than it would be for a commercial transaction. John and Craig were amassing a list of basic rights afforded heterosexuals and denied homosexuals. After several talks with their attorney, who is gay, the two agreed to file papers for adoption.

John recalls the day he and Craig

went to the courthouse for their petition, accompanied by their attorney. Amongst rows of mothers and fathers with their small children, John and Craig sat: a smiling gray-haired man of 67, with twinkling mischievous eyes, and a solid, big-limbed blond hunk of 32. Once inside the judge's chambers, Craig recalls, "I told the judge our relationship is like father and son." The matter of ownership of The Belvedere was sidestepped. "They seem to frown on people [petitioning adoption] for financial reasons. They prefer to have people doing it for emotional reasons." The issue of homosexuality was not broached.

Craig required written consent from his parents to agree to the adoption. "They knew that it was, in no way, a slighting of them. I still consider them my parents and our relationship is just as good as it's ever been. This was just a way for John and I becoming legally married like my sister and her husband." In deference to his folks, Craig Richard Burns legally changed his name to Craig Burns Eberhardt. The Burns knew of their son's homosexuality; he had come out to them at age 18 as a prelude to the announcement that he had fallen in love with a man and was moving in with him. The relationship lasted three months.

The final legal step in adoption is the destruction of Craig's original birth certificate, which resides in Chicago. Another one will be issued naming John as his legal parent. Ultimately, there will be no legal record of Craig ever being related to the Burns family.

* * *

In the case of Robert Paul P., the court avails itself of the same self-reflexive homophobia that was employed in the Hardwick sodomy decision back in 1986. Observing that legislation did not include homosexuals in adoption laws any time since the laws were enacted in 1873, the court questions why the status quo should be upset. Another absurd leap of logic observes that since New York sodomy laws were overturned just in 1980, it seems unlikely that the same legislature would want homosexual relationships themselves acknowledged through adoption. Another decision went so far as to term the notion of sexual intimacy between adopter and adoptee as "utterly repugnant."

In most cases, the court expresses

itself carefully in gay or lesbian issues. "Court people are sophisticated enough not to be overt," Lavery said. "The less overt are the ones most difficult to pin down and accuse of anti-gay decisions. No one will say, 'We're not going to allow this adoption because they're a couple of fags.'"

But read between the lines. The court criticized the men for looking to adoption as a way to legally share a lease and prevent an impending eviction. The legal jargon was merely a smokescreen; once again the court was



FOR THE RICH AND POWERFUL

Michael Lavery Photo: Ellen B. Neipris

enacting laws that refused to acknowledge a same-sex relationship. In fact, Lavery points out, "the concept of adopting children is a product of the post-Victorian times." Beginning during the ancient Roman era, adoption was a legal tool for economic, political and social objectives, especially when a wealthy man did not have a natural heir.

But the issue of gay adoption prompts mixed reactions. Paula Ettelbrick, Lambda's legal director since 1985, considers it a flawed strategy, and a compromise to receiving basic gay and lesbian rights. "The effort of our community should be to obtain recognition for our relationships as they are, not subverting nor distorting them into parent-child relationships."

Lavery also has a diplomatic party line. Quietly, he suggests that same-sex couples who maintained the parent-child charade have had their petitions for adoption granted. "One should not assume that after the 1986 Court of Appeals decision, there have been no

gay adoptions." After all, he points out, when there is no hitch to the proceedings, the request for adoption is kept confidential. There is no record of successful homosexual adoptions. It is only when the initial petition is denied and the decision appealed that the case finds its way into public record.

Lavery recalls one case where a successful professor in his mid-40s asked to adopt a man in his mid-20s after they had lived together five years. The older man presented himself as advisor and mentor; a role model that the younger man lacked as a child. When challenged as to whether their relationship was actually of a sexual nature, the younger man grimaced and told the court, "No way!" The petition was approved.

He offers an unsettling clarification: "If you were rich and powerful, [lover adoptions] probably could be done," but not for the average guy on the street. Lavery alludes to an internationally-known operatic composer who adopted his young lover, as well as a successful entrepreneur from Chicago who followed suit.

The recent State Court of Appeals case involving Miguel Braschi was a landmark case insofar as acknowledging gay and lesbian relationships. Braschi was awarded his deceased lover's lease after their 10-year union, but this decision will have no impact on the adoption issue, Lavery offered. The courts pulled their punch, he added, in extending the ruling to rent-controlled apartments, not rent-stabilized buildings. Gays and lesbians will still find the need to petition for adoption to maintain cohabitation or property ownership.

The gay psychologist who adopted his younger lover agrees on that count. The man, who requested anonymity, suggested that a real estate pressure group influenced the legislature in the Braschi case. "They've stopped people from using adoption as a way around the problem of losing your apartment if your name is not in the lease. Adoption should be a freedom."

When his lover of 25 years died, the man was left alone in the six-room penthouse apartment on Riverside Drive. Eventually he met his second lover, who moved in six months later. A rash of abusive letters from the man's landlord began to come, insisting that the lover move out since he was not on the lease. "They persecuted us for three years. That

was the trick in those days," he said. "They thought the only way to get me out of the apartment was to separate me from my lover. We said 'fuck you' and went through the channels of adoption."

Officially, Lavery will not handle an adoption case where the same-sex petitioners are involved in a sexual relationship. The case is doomed, he insists. "Most cases I handle are done pro bono. It's not worth the time and effort if the case is denied without any advancement." The strategy of gay adoption "is not a winnable battle at this time," he added. "A gay sexual relationship will not meet the legal definition of adoption."

"It's necessary to convince heterosexual judges, as well as other gays, that two gay men can have a relationship that is not necessarily sexual." The unspoken message here is: keep a lid on intimacy in court and the petition will sail through. Acknowledge your lover relationship and prepare for rejection. What advice does Lavery give his clients in this situation?

"There's a thin line between deception and downplaying," Lavery says. "If [the partners] can't be frank when the question comes up, it could be disastrous."

Ettelbrick points out alternatives to adoption, adding, "There are ways that we can take care of our vulnerabilities under the law." These include wills, power of attorney designation and conservatorships.

Lavery is guarded in his appraisal of the future of gay legal rights and the recognition of homosexual unions. "We have some ways to go; we are still too conveniently overlooked, unless somebody is waving a sign in your face, saying, 'What about us?'"

* * *

John and Craig are sitting in the breakfast nook off the kitchen of The Belvedere, taking a breather from last-minute renovations. By November 1, they will close up the castle and head to Florida to run another guest house called Villa Fontana. Craig ponders the longevity of their relationship, and feels it stems, in part, from a respect for fidelity during sexually liberated days. "We've always been just a monogamous couple," he explained, "and I think that's why it's worked for us this long. We made a commitment to each other, and this year we reinforced the commitment to each other." ▼

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Into the fray of wacky, pseudo-underground, hipper-than-hip, gayer-than-gay, raw publications comes *Pansy Beat*, which, at \$3.00, claims to be "worth every penny." Following in the footsteps of *My Comrade/Sister*, *Pansy Beat* covers the perverse, the obscure, the bizarre and the all-too-familiar place we call "downtown," except it's perhaps a tad more anarchistic (activantes are quoted inside saying such cute things as, "Blow up Washington, D.C.!).

Says *Pansy Beat* in it's premiere issue: "We hope to take you on a whimsical journey down a pansy strewn lane, leading to our peculiar brand of offbeat obsessive humor, colorful local celebrities and sometimes even a lil' bit of social consciousness."

—M.S.



Photo: Ellen B. Neipris

As any fag who moves to Manhattan and discovers the wiles of Christopher Street will tell you, there is a bar called Boots and Saddles whose primary virtues are that it opens early, closes late, does not serve Coors and is frequented by a crowd that gets a thrill from the mere mention of cowboys.

Imagine our surprise when, just around the corner from our plush, sun-drenched offices at *OutWeek*, we stumble upon another place called Boots and Saddles at 24th and Lexington, a place that actually sells—boots and saddles!

But we have a couple of questions:

How many residents of the welfare hotels on lower Lexington Avenue have need of polo mallets and hoof oil?

How many residents of East 73rd Street, Sag Harbor and Saratoga Springs, who might actually own a polo pony or two, would come near East 24th Street to purchase the aforementioned accoutrements?

Just what the hell is going on here, anyway?

— Andrew Miller



OUT OF MY HANDS

BY BRADLEY BALL

Dear Brad:

Let me see if I've got this right. As this whole thing was first explained to me, one's sexual orientation as well as the process by and extent to which an individual identifies his or her sexuality, both privately and publicly, are all matters of personal choice and are underlined by a fundamental right to privacy. Furthermore, as the act of coming out, to whatever degree, is by implication and consequence political, then the issue of individual political expression also becomes a factor. Using this construction, I was led to understand that the lesbian and gay communities, among their diverse goals, constantly endeavor to secure the protection of individual liberties and to that end advocate opposition to persons and institutions attempting to compile and distribute lists of alleged and admitted lesbians and gay men for punitive purposes.

Okay, I can follow this for the most part but here's where I get a little confused: now I'm being told that in some exceptional cases it is acceptable for the community to appoint itself as an agent for expediting the public acknowledgment of the sexual

orientation of certain prominent individuals who have chosen not to do so themselves because their refusal, for whatever reasons, constitutes an implied threat to the existence of all lesbians and gay men and should therefore be subject to opprobrium.

If that's the case, I've made up an extensive list of persons, alive and dead, actual and fictional, who I believe or at least would like to believe have engaged in some form or another of same-gender sexual activity and I would be willing to make this list available for publication if that will indeed save lives. I hesitate to do so, however, only because I have this nagging feeling that some ideological contradiction may be involved. The trouble is, I never seem to be around when the rules are made or changed and so I miss all the discussion supporting these changes. Could you perhaps clarify this issue so that I can adopt the correct course of action?

—Jane Roe

Dear Jane:

I was, in fact, present at the meeting when this particular amendment to the rulebook was to be considered for ratification but at the last

minute somebody (and I won't mention names, Kelly) made a tabling motion which was carried and thus postponed the actual vote for two weeks. Not so coincidentally, I had to be at an Advice Seminar in Banff then and the person who was supposed to take notes for me in my absence was given two tickets to *Les Misérables* for that very evening. Consequently I only have the official minutes to go by and we all know how deliberately misinforming the official minutes can be. There is no record of the actual debate, only some vague mention of a "heated discussion" and a threat to adjourn the meeting which was followed by a vote of 51-17 in favour of adopting the amendment.

Once again, I believe this points up certain deficiencies inherent in majoritarian democracy and I think we should, accordingly, restructure the model of operation. In the meantime, would that person (you know who you are) who borrowed my copy of the rulebook "for a couple of days just to check something out" please be kind enough to return it?

Confidential to Forgotten on 48th Street:

You're right to blame yourself. Making an open declaration of romantic intentions is universally regarded (at least in my neighborhood) as a hostile act to which the only humane response is the sort of protracted communications blackout you are now experiencing. If you had only asked my advice *before* you put such a rash, ill-conceived plan into effect I could have warned you against it but, no, you kids think you know everything and always end up having to learn the hard way. Well, just be grateful he didn't tell you to drop off the face of the earth right then and there and be grateful as well that this didn't happen at Christmastime.



Ms. Davis to St. Peter:

"Pee-tah, Pee-tah, Pee-tah.
Fasten your seat belts.
It's going to be a bumpy eternity."

Bette Davis 1908-1989



By Michelangelo Signorile

Back to the phones! It's time for another gossip zap; this one aimed at *Cosmopolitan*, which, as we told you last week, printed a hateful, homophobic, dangerous article titled *The Risky Business of Bisexual Love*. The number is: 212-649-3570 and the people to target are maniac-in-chief Helen Gurley Brown and Roberta Ashley, an editor directly under her and, as sources reported to me, the one who was responsible for the deadly story. Leave both a friendly message telling them how monstrous *Cosmo* is and how they're both personally responsible for the murderous acts of anti-gay violence which such hateful and false stories perpetuate.

Actually, it's quite interesting that Roberta Ashley was the editor responsible since Bobbie, as they call her, is not only a homophobic nightmare, but also one of the biggest fakes around town.

I'm sure you're all aware of those celebrity Q & A columns that are printed in lots of newspapers. You know, the ones that ask questions like: "My friend Nancy says that Richard Gere was dating the Brazilian Sylvia Martins for the longest time, but other friends who know him tell me that Martins is—IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY—not Gere's type. Is Nancy wrong?" (Then, of course, there would be some hokey answer that would mysteriously work in Gere's new film or project). Anyway, Bobbie, for years, wrote such a column under the alias of "Robin Adams Sloan." This column appears in *Parade* magazine weekly, and is also syndicated daily to hundreds of newspapers across the country. "Sloan"

made a hefty buck doing this. But here's the scam: All of the questions—the ones signed: Judy E., Austin, Texas, etc.—were phoney; as in MADE UP. Of course, you may have already thought this, so here's the second scam: "Sloan" didn't even make them up herself, publicists did. People at public relations firms wrote questions—with answers—about their clients (individuals, films, books, shows, etc.), and signed them with fake names of people around the country (who knows what happened to the letters of *real* people who wrote in). Then they simply handed in the questions and answers to "Sloan," who then passed them on to her editors—who thought she'd been feverishly coming up with this shit herself—and they printed it, while she collected her check. Great scam.

GOSSIP ZAP!
212-649-3570
ZAP COSMO!

And, of course, it should come as no big surprise that, before she had her *Daily News* column, another person who spent time being *Robin Adams Sloan* was—you got it!—Liz Smith.

* * * * *

Suddenly people are calling me, sending me notes, grabbing me at social events and telling me something I've known all along: Pat Buckley is the slimiest woman walking the face of this planet. A couple of weeks ago, the *Times*' creepy Georgia Dullea wrote an article about an AIDS benefit headlined: ASSEMBLING A CHARITY EVENT, PIECE BY PIECE. And Pat Buckley, as usual, sops up some good press. Says Dullea: "Mrs. Ribicoff and Pat Buckley had been camped in the tent for hours, answering phones, fetching coffee for the crew and generally being what Mrs. Buckley calls 'beasts of burden.'"

Some people might see this as *nice*. They might think it's wonderful

that the wife of the fascist William F. Buckley is helping out in the fight against AIDS. But it's bullshit! Everything Pat Buckley does is for the purposes of good public relations for her maniac husband. Her sudden interest in AIDS in the last two years is neatly calculated to offset her husband attacking the gay and lesbian and other oppressed communities time and time again, and to make her and him look oh-so-wonderful. I'm not saying that one is responsible for the politics of everyone one fucks. But Pat Buckley calls herself "civic leader and wife of...." She's a walking advertisement for her husband and his murderous political beliefs. Her flimsy deeds are PR pay-offs intended to allow her husband to continue to keep us down.

We don't need Pat Buckley answering phones at some charity event; we can get anyone to answer phones. I CAN ANSWER THE FUCKING PHONES! WHAT WE NEED PAT BUCKLEY TO DO IS INFLUENCE HER HUSBAND, SHAKE HIM UP A BIT AND MAYBE HIT HIM OVER THE HEAD WITH A FRYING PAN! This man has an enormous influence on the Right in this country. As recently as last week he attacked our community regarding the Helms Amendment.

But of course none of this stopped William Norwich (*Daily News*) from writing up Pat once again. After giving us a brief breather, Norwich runs a huge photo of the grotesque monster and tells about how Pat is—take a guess—hosting an AIDS benefit. Sadly, even he gets used in her propaganda machine, thinking of course that he's doing something good, writing about a benefit. What we need him to do is simply boycott this nightmarish woman. Certainly if she was starved for publicity—something she simply couldn't do without and still stay afloat in her social circles—she might then tell her husband to cut the shit. But no, Billy, who worships the ground she walks upon, can't seem to break his cheap and transparent habit of wrapping himself around her ass, puckering up and giving her a sweet rim job every day of her slaughtering life.

Meanwhile, we die, Billy. ▼

Social Terrorism

Photos by Erich Conrad



FOREVER FORBES
Party boy Malcolm Forbes at MK



THE QUICKER PICK HER UP
Rosie at the Market Diner



KIR ROYALE
Kir at Dealovely



PROM NIGHT
Sylvia Miles and Michael Musto love it up in a limo



PARTY BEAT
Endive at Trax



CHART BUSTERS
Tish and Snooky at St. Marks Place



BADUM'S UP!
John Badum with Larisa on 5th Ave



SEE YOU IN CHURCH
Dianne Brill at JFK



LADIES WHO LUNCH
Larisa and Mabel at Market Diner



I PUT A SPELL ON YOU
Lovely Ladies at R&R Fag Bar



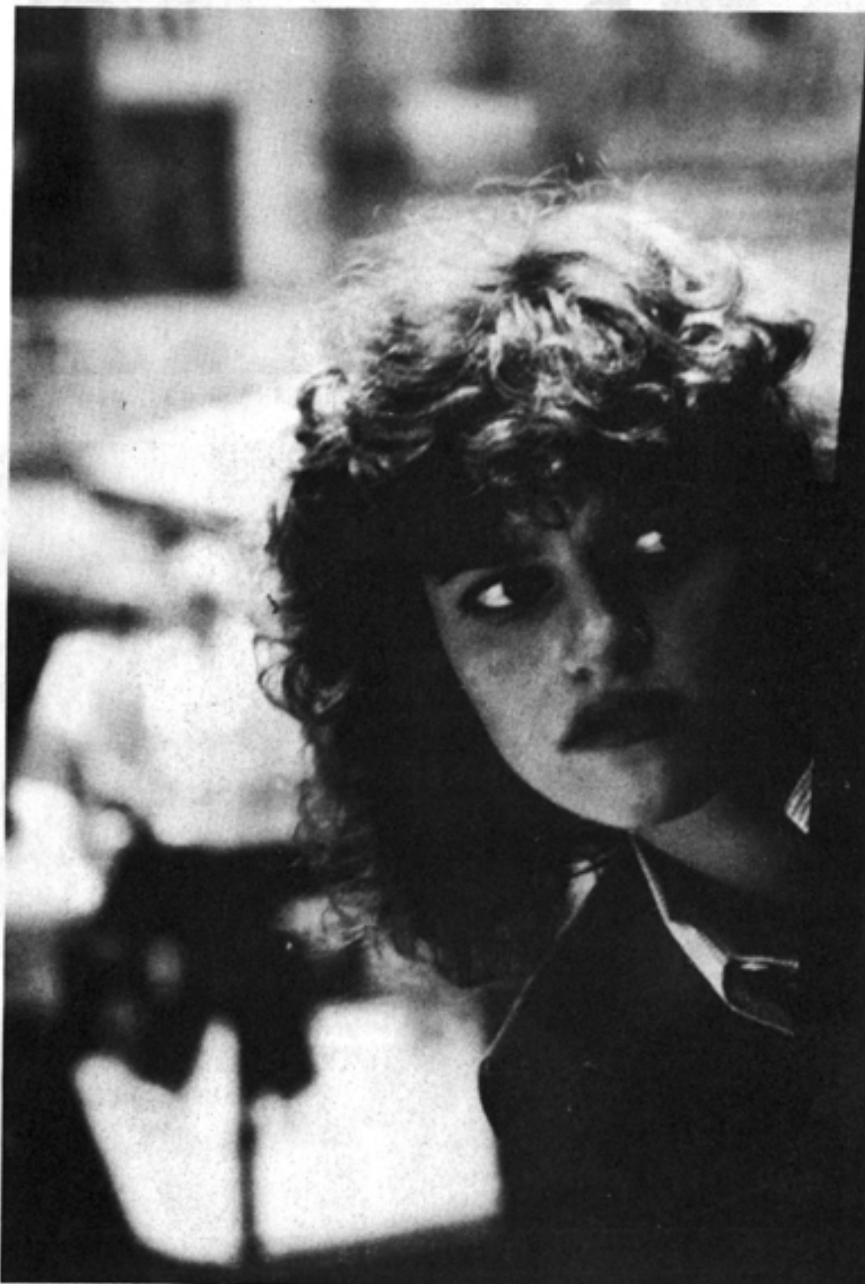
GIMME BACK MY MAN
Andreas, Princess Diandra and Guy at Trax



FUN FUR
Psychedelic Fur Richard Butler at "Drugstore Cowboy" premier

by Sarah Pettit

The Last



Halt. Genug. Basta. This little girl is putting her foot down. For well over a year, I've sat by and watched this torrid epic unfold. Now, I feel compelled to speak my peace. If it continues in some small way to quelling the riptide madness that has overtaken the best of us, so much the better.

I speak, of course, of the Sandra and Madonna business. Sadly, or perhaps most fortunately, I was out of the country when the seminal event transpired. A close friend, a veteran watchdog of all media silliness, was kind enough to call and report the juicy details. It seemed that the sanitized world of prime time had been given a real working over: Sandra Bernhard and Madonna Ciccone, the two doyennes of backsass and self-promotion, had double teamed the esteemed Mr. Letterman in a fiesta of sapphic innuendo and asides. "Cubby" chirped one lady. "Hole" trilled the other.

Over the following months a collective frisson ascended the vertebrae of the girl community. In June, the self-same Cubby Hole paraded down Fifth Avenue beneath a sea of Madonna and Sandra placards. Every corner was abuzz with the Sphinx-like riddle, "Did they or didn't they?" Ten minutes of airplay was parlayed into a veritable forest of meaning. The trees have yet to be seen.

In the end, it matters not a wit if these gals did the nasty. It, like Homer's "wine dark sea," remains an unfathomable secret few of us are ever likely to illumine. What we should examine is why their late night "I will if you will" caused such a frenzy.

Putting aside the fact that these lasses are in some degree saucy crumpets we would happily welcome into our fantasy worlds, there remains the more crucial issue of what they represent. To my mind, to speak of Sandra and Madonna is not to speak of Sandra Bernhard and Madonna Ciccone, but rather to summon all of the complexities and anxieties we feel about

(we promise, really, we do...)

Word...

visibility, assimilation and power. You laugh. It might sound sterile and off the point, but I don't think it is. What occurred on *Letterman* that evening was a moment of (relatively) unabashed closet breaking. Yes, it was mitigated by all manner of coyness and covert language, but the bottom line stands. Sandra and Madonna suggested they did it, they loved it and they cared not a sausage what anyone thought.

Without doubt, the concrete reality remains that few of us can afford such dangerous games. To be a super loaded, don't-fuck-with-me-fellas media gal is one thing. To be your average, where's-my-paycheck, law abiding lesbian is another. We, on the whole, can't play with fire and rest assured that some ugly fowl won't come home to roost. On our doorstep, even, and evict us.

What is apparent is that what played out on our screens that night was one of the few spectacles of its kind. The irony is that we don't really know that these women are lesbians (well, at least, not one... see *Spin*, October, 1989). So, why do we cling so madly to straws? Quite simply, because we look ceaselessly and ever expectantly for signs of lesbian life in the universe.

But let me suggest the following. Isn't it time we stopped going on about Sandra and Madonna? Sure, they're luscious and lovely. Even I, in a moment of youthful excitement tossed a pair of panties at Ms. Bernhard, but let's get real. Let's stop living through the glowing TV tube and the j.o. slickness of video. If you think Sandra looks like a dream in a form-hugging Azadine Alala, just imagine how good you'd look in one. Save up your shekels and maybe in half a decade you'll be able to afford the garment bag it comes in. Until then, why not improvise? I think you'll find the sisterhood most forgiving of small flaws and equally eager to support any variety of self empowerment you can stir up. ▼



...On Those Two

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OW 18

Television Tuning in GAYDAR

by Alan Klein

The blitzkrieg is upon us with yet another new fall season of television. And although there are a few bright spots among the rubble of this season's TV landscape, it is still more likely we'll turn off than tune in. It is safe to say that most of this season's offerings have not been created for a gay or lesbian audience; in fact, I can't recall a television program from any past season that has specifically aimed at the gay and lesbian viewer. And although they do know we're watching, (a recent article in *Billboard Magazine* acknowledged the substantial buying power of gay men and lesbians) we are still considered by the networks and TV makers alike to be *homonongrata*.

With that in mind, it should come as no surprise that the lesbian and gay perspective was conspicuously absent from every fall season review I read. So, in the spirit of self-empowerment, the time has come to shed the constraints imposed on us by the Marvin Kitmans and the Tom Shales and look at television the way it ought to be looked at.

Whether intentional or completely subconscious, there are those programs, and even more specifically, images, that strike a responsive chord in gay men and lesbians. These images are coded in ways that set off that old *gaydar*:

[(ga'dar)n. 1. Like radar. 2. A sixth sense created by gay men and lesbians in order to contextualize

obscure or covert gay messages in mass culture. 3. The device that makes successful cruising possible.] Whether intended for us or not, these images, through the pervasiveness of television, enter our stream of consciousness and do indeed rouse our senses. And this fall our senses will be treated to some of the finest in homoerotic tube-lube ever.

From a "Boys Eye View," the titillation begins with *Spike of Bensonhurst's* Sasha Mitchell and *Alien Nation's* hot

much to the delight of many a gay viewer, to extract him from those oh-so-telling 'U.S. Jock Boxers' ('spandex for extra comfort during workouts, S-M-L-XL, Catalog #A41) or his 'Le Tank' tee-shirt ('in White, Black, Seafoam, Coral, Catalog #A16'). *Jumpstreet's* stars—three pretty boys and one hot woman—are undercover cops who pass as high school students and crack everything from drug rings to vandalism, in one episode even stopping a series of gay bashings. The Richard

Greico character, Dennis Booker, was recently introduced as an overzealous, soon to be disillusioned young cop. Outfitted in jeans, a tee-shirt, a black leather Perfecto jacket and one gold hoop in each ear, Greico could easily pass for an East Village Boy in Black. And *Jumpstreet* wasted no time in exploiting his luscious looks, almost leaving Depp in the dust.

Greico's second appearance on *Jumpstreet* featured him in a shower scene that still yields many hours of self-manipulated enjoyment. Packing a loaded pistol, and one in his hand as well, Greico's character parades around his apartment clad only in

his white towel—Catalog #A73—accentuating his olive complexion and rippled stomach, still wet from the shower. We watch in awe as the camera lustfully explores his body. From big brown bedroom eyes to his pouty lips, the camera slides down his body to his chiseled hairless chest and erect nipples adorned with beads of sweat. As if reacting to our gay gaze, he strikes poses that can only be construed as homoerotic. Poses that realize the power of his beauty. Inviting poses that draw upon gay male fanta-

See TELEVISION on page 62



PACKING A LOADED PISTOL
Richard Greico

Photo: Ellen B. Neipris

boy "newcomer," Sean Six. But this season's *queer de resistance* is, by far, *Booker*, Fox Television's new fall entry, which stars teen and queer-boy heart-throb Richard Greico. *Booker* is a spin-off of Fox's successful series *21 Jumpstreet*. *Jumpstreet*, often foreplay for a Sunday night at Mars, oozes with some of television's prettiest faces. Johnny Depp, the show's prettiest male face, looks as if he stepped off the pages of the *International Male* catalog, right into America's living room. Indeed it seems that in many of the show's episodes, someone forgot, or neglected,

Music

Has She Sold Her Soul?

Crossroads. Tracy Chapman.
Electra/Asylum Records.

by **Jacquie Bishop**

Joni Mitchell's trill is annoying. It sounds like mice running back and forth in the ceiling. Unfortunately, Tracy Chapman, all of 24, by now has picked up this annoying habit—except she sounds like chipmunks on coke.

I saw Tracy in concert at Carnegie Hall in November. I sat two rows away from God in the midst of what looked like a waiting room of immigrants from the 'burbs. I remember now that at the time my then lover and I were attempting a reconciliation, so I was already in a strange mood. Tracy stood on stage in traditional black t-shirt, (new) black jeans and (new) boots. She had gained a little weight after the Amnesty International tour, her dreadlocks were in the mushroom stage and her voice was a powerful haunting alto that constantly sang about the injustices, lack of justice and wrongs of our basic societal fabric. She also sang about not allowing herself to be fucked over in relationships, by men, ex's of non-specific gender and society in general. Each song was an anthem. Whether it was a well known song from her first album or a lesser known song that her long time followers were familiar with, we cheered, cried, laughed and wondered out loud with her as she earnestly sang good simple songs. I left the show teary eyed and thor-

oughly depressed—I thought it was a good show.

However, the trill shit on this current album is so distracting I find it difficult to concentrate on it. It is a relatively new habit. Hopefully she is not too addicted to it and will drop it soon enough.

The simplicity of Tracy Chapman is what got me hooked in the first place. I fell in love with *Fast Car*, after a particularly erotic connection with a New England woman, who too

thanked a slew of men and a "special friend." In concert she spoke about empowerment of the disenfranchised. She spoke about race relations. She was bathed in a lavender light with a pink triangle.

On the album, her icky (yes "icky" band) is back. At best, I find their accompaniment condescending and intrusive. Even guest appearances by Neil Young could not save this band from diving in the waters of mediocrity. Periodically, a chord—

maybe even 16 bars—is interesting. Beyond that it is obvious that the focus of the album is on Tracy. Her producers should trust that people will listen to the "lil' colored girl sing and play." The simplicity of this mid-westerner, present New Englander is lost somewhere in the harmonicas, dull drumming (trap drums) and piano. If you can get past the trill (I'm sorry but I do not believe that Joni Mitchell is where it's at as a singer. I also feel that singers who spend their time imitating her...) there's the speedy version of *Bridges*, and *Freedom Now* (a tribute to Nelson Mandela). There is the "fuck you I won't go this again" song, *This Time* ("This time I won't let my emotions rule my life. This time I'm gonna keep my heart locked safe inside, I'm gonna be my own best friend"). And the haunting reminder *All That You Have Is Your Soul*. "Don't be

tempted by the shiny apple, Don't you eat of a bitter fruit, Hunger only for a taste of justice, Hunger only for a world of truth, 'Cause all that you have is your soul." *Material World* sounds like she's about to take off into space; *Subcity* is sung so quickly that without the words printed on the

See CHAPMAN on page 63

SIMPLICITY LOST
Tracy Chapman



Photo: Herb Ritts

loved the dreddie New England transport. In concert Chapman plays alone. On a stage that has hosted foreign ambassadors, dance companies and full orchestras, she stood alone, with a guitar, two mikes and a cup of water. At the Grammy Awards earlier this year Tracy shed her dreds for a short 'fro and a few locks. She

Music

Out & Out

by Jim Fouratt

A love song is a love song is a love song is a love song. George Michael, Whitney Houston, Tracy Chapman, Mark Almond, Mathilde Santing, Luther Van Dross, Lewis Fury, kd lang, Tom Robinson are all capable of thrown down, rip-up-your-soul, I-stand-naked-before-you, Please! Please! Please!, baby, be with me or I will die anthems of emotional, spiritual and sexual need; the kind of songs that can bring out the wicked lust in the most hardened activist and undress



DANGEROUS LOVE SONGS

Tom Robinson

emotionally the most put-together-passing-for-without-any-messy-love-needs-post-liberation lesbian or gay man. These are songs that nourish that dangerous, liberating desire that transcends oppression, repression and fear and puts purple back into the dark night of the soul.

Three of the above musicians are out.

Two of them are not on major labels in the United States. Today, only the import bins contain the gamey foreplay lush notes of Tom Robinson and Mathilde Santing.

Tom Robinson, friend of Peter Gabriel and the Kinks' Ray Davies, gained world-wide fame as an open gay man in 1979 when his upbeat rock cry for gay pride, *Glad to be Gay* went to the top of the charts in the U.K. and made him a radio name from Tokyo to Los Angeles. Rising to the occasion, Robinson and his band TRB delivered two albums full of 60s informed political messages clearly delivering a rock vision of a gay, feminist, non-racist, non-sexist egalitarian world. His love for Martin, and then Martin's leaving him, were upfront and clearly shared in a number of compositions. But it was an impossible position to be in and, like Icarus, he got his wings and soul singed.

Tom Robinson had to please everyone: the gay audience, the political community, the music critics...and he was answerable to the homophobes, the record company and the gutter press.

He suffered adulation, cruel reviews, loss of privacy and developed a severe identity-crisis (the Judy Garland syndrome) and—Bowie-like—fled to the anonymity of Berlin.

There he fell in love, got bruised, moved to Amsterdam and began to write love songs. Dangerous love songs that didn't mask the erotic games that "boys and women" play; *Living in a Love Town* was his ode to amour found by the Zuider Zee.

While he continued to receive critical support, radio and video play and consumer response and even the occasional top 10 U.K. hit, he found himself dropped by the major labels in the US. When he delivered his first album to the newly reformed Geffen Records in 1984 with a lusty Genet sex song entitled "I Want to be Your Cabin Boy" that, remixed, could have ruled the dance floor that summer, a closeted executive paid him to get off the label and go back to London.

He did. And built his own studio

and began to produce some of the most moving love songs I have ever heard. You can find the best of them on an album entitled *Still Loving You*



NO DIVAS

Mathilde Santing & Mimi Izumi Kobayashi

recorded for Castaway records and distributed by RCA Ariola in the U.K. in 1987.

Mathilde Santing has been the rage of European avant lounge society for the past five years. She is a full-bodied, Amsterdam-based chanteuse (a chanteuse is quite the opposite of a Diva; a chanteuse is a sophisticated interpreter of sultry sexy adult life songs emotionally delivered in the context of world weary experience). Joan Armatrading, Boy George, Sade and Julia Fordham all call her their role model when asked who does it best. This sometimes blond sometimes punk crew-cutted lady turns them away in legions whenever she decides to play. I remember one summer in London following her from dive from boite to lounge to cellar to nightclub only to find the lip-sticked lezzies and ID set had beaten me there. It literally took six trips and a world famous fag to get me into a dark overcrowded room of post-FACE scene-makers to experience the wonder of this astonishing interpreter of contemporary songcraft.

See OUT & OUT on page 63

Art

Sunday School

by Catherine Saalfield

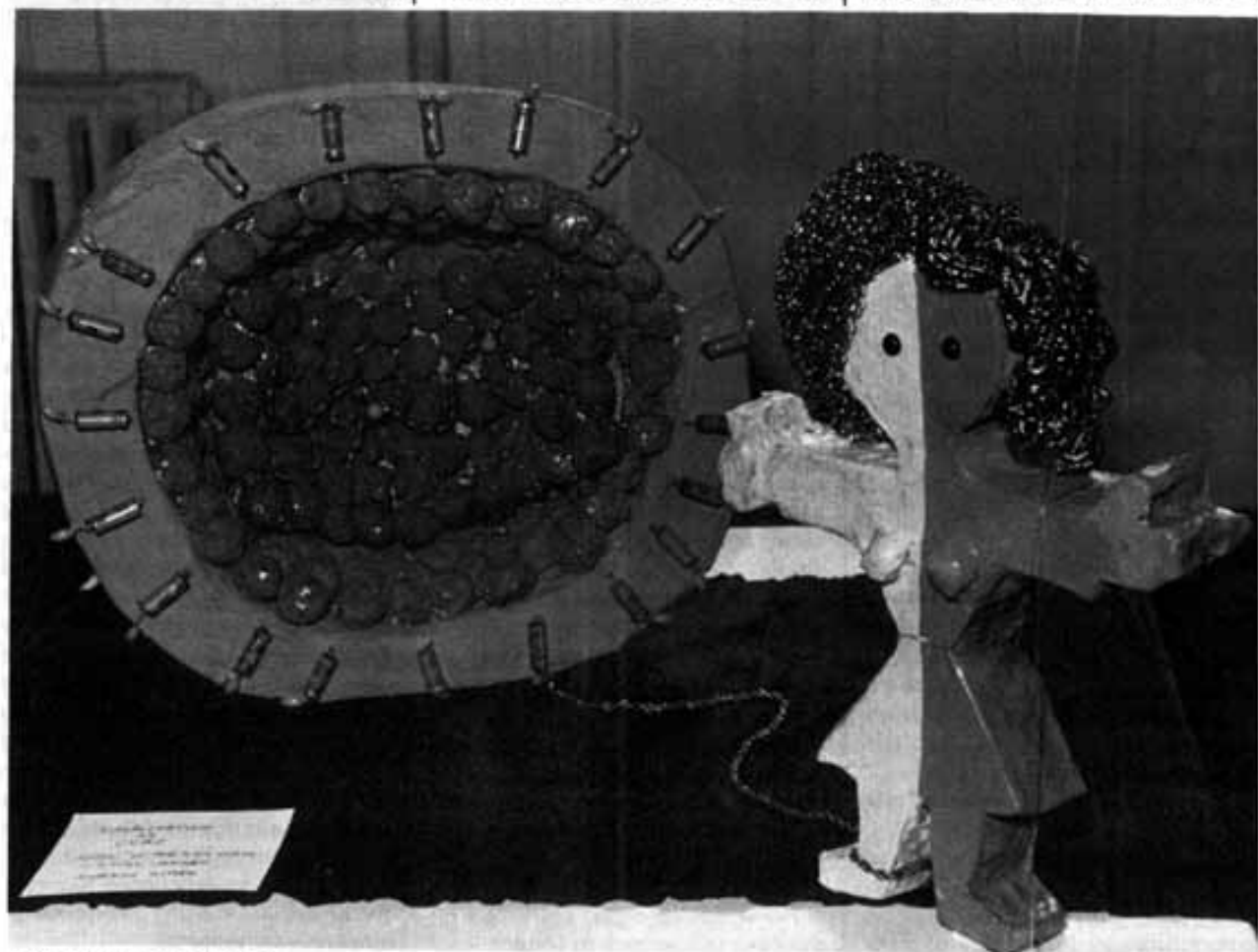
In conjunction with AIDS Awareness Month [October], we plan to explore what AIDS means to those who are afflicted and to those who care," says Susan Lerner, who has organized a Month of Sundays dedicated to discussion, education and raising money at St. Clement's Episcopal Church on 46th Street, and she has tapped the resources in the immediate area. 46th

Street may soon be as busy as St. Mark's Place.

The first day of October, the first Sunday of the month, I took the IRT up to Times Square. The (left) Reverend Kathleen C. Mandeville and others gathered at St. Clement's for a video and an art show, coordinated by Peter Larose. The tape, called *Women Facing AIDS*, includes women living with AIDS and ARC talking about art, IV drugs and HIV. Janet Goldner, a sculptor in NYC, coordinated a two month workshop at Beth Israel Medical Center with four women. She credits Ann Meredith

with suggesting to her how artists can impact their communities with their work. Meredith's photographs of women with AIDS and their families were recently exhibited, along with *Women Facing AIDS*, at the New Museum in a show called "Until the Last Breath."

The video, produced by Stephanie Daniels, focuses on the discussions and creations of the women who are all ex-IV drug users. The sound of styrofoam being sawed, shaped into self-portraits, becomes a soothing backdrop against which the women examine where they are, how and why they got there, and how they can deal with their situations. All of this happens within the context of a hard-hitting critique of government negligence, and Kathryn Ritter, one of



VISUALIZATION AS CURE
by Kathryn Ritter

Photo: Susan Lerner

the artists, concludes in the tape, "Pain that is shared is divided."

The tape not only chronicles the group working and collaborating on their sculptures, but also includes interviews with other women in the AIDS community: service workers and AIDS activists. HIV+ women and women with AIDS/ARC who have been isolated as a result of sexism, racism and the economic foundation of this society as a whole. The destructive manifestations of this are enormous. As Rebecca Cole tells the camera, "3,000 PWAs were in drug trials in April, 1988, and 96 percent of them were men. Of the four percent who were women, all but one woman was in an AZT trial." The women in the artists' group are all taking control over their own lives, all supporting and encouraging each other throughout.

Some of their final pieces were being exhibited in the chapel, accompanied by photographs of the group and AIDS information leaflets for people to take home. A second tape, *Women and AIDS* which was produced by Alex Juhasz and Jean Carlomusto, didn't arrive as scheduled, but will be shown on October 22, along with a repeat screening of *Women Facing AIDS*. Since women are being continually misinformed, misrepresented, mistaken for self-sufficient or unworthy of attention, *Women and AIDS* begins with the question, "Who takes care of the women?" When the query is repeated at the end of the tape, the viewer has been implored to bear the responsibility and to demand it from others.

This tape critiques mainstream lip service about education for women, in the form of TV commercials, made for TV docu-dramas and so on. All of those superficial attempts ignore the women most at risk for HIV—women of color, poor women, and IVDUs—and instead target white,

straight, middle-class women. When CBS aired a spot called, *AIDS Hits Home*, they misled viewers to think that white, middle-class heterosexuals in their aerobics classes were now most at risk. In the Gay Men's Health Crisis-produced, *Women and AIDS*, through a series of interviews with women AIDS service providers, the epidemic of sexism and racism in the AIDS crisis really "hits home."

Women's activism takes many forms: women with AIDS and HIV surviving and thriving, videomakers documenting and educating, caretakers maintaining spirits and households, service-providers doing their thing, as well as those who engage in direct action to end the AIDS crisis.

On Sunday, October 22, in addition to the women and AIDS videos at 1:15 p.m., the People with AIDS Theater Workshop will be performing a piece during the Eucharist at 11 a.m. Barbara Carrellas, the co-managing director of the PWA Theater Workshop, said her group, which is housed at St. Clement's, is busy creating their piece for the 22nd. They are also in the process of recruiting new members, especially women.

During the Eucharist on Sunday October 29, Daniel Berry, R.N., from the AIDS unit at Beth Israel Medical Center, will preach. And at 7 p.m., Lavender Light Black and People of All Colors Lesbian and Gay Gospel Choir will be doing a benefit (\$15 tax deductible).

The fundraising and proceeds from this entire series will benefit a women and AIDS project as well as the newly formed Clinton Peer AIDS Education Cooperative (CPAEC). CPAEC exemplifies the reasons that 46th Street is a hopping place. CPAEC is a coalition made up of St. Clement's Church, Streetworks (a homeless youth program), Hartley House (an elderly home) and Sanctuary for Families (a battered women's shelter). All of these organizations are located on 46th St. So, go there, at least on the remaining Sunday's in October, and spread the word. ▼

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Ad Council

Art

Who Is Art?

by Gregg Bordowitz

"Those who find ugly meanings in beautiful things are corrupt without being charming. This is a fault."
—Oscar Wilde

In the Metro Pictures gallery stood eight sculptures arranged in a circle. Cast in precious metals resting on large blocks of wood, the sculptures are large, round organic shapes. Molecular. Resembling earlier modernist experiments in form, these sculptures are actually replicas of viruses. Diseases. One of these sculp-

The work is supposed to be a joke on those who buy the sculptures—spending thousands of dollars on a beautiful work of art that is actually a model of a virus. What is implied by this? Obviously, Jones has attended the David Letterman school of humor. He wants to prove that "they'll buy anything."

Many people in the art world appreciate this strategy of making meaning. I detest it. It is cynical and resigned. It merely reaffirms the status quo.

Ronald Jones' use of disease as a metaphor for the sick underside of culture is nothing more than oppor-

to gain access to healthcare. He ignores the governmental inaction that has allowed an AIDS epidemic. He ignores the censorship that has prevented thousands from receiving safer sex and clean works information to protect themselves from viruses that threaten their lives.

At a party I was undoubtedly boring the person I was talking to. Tired of listening to my rant, she yelled, "Ugh, you have art up your ass!" Overbearing this, my boyfriend-of-the-moment leaned over and whispered in my ear, "Art! Who is Art?!"

Walking into the Paula Cooper Gallery I was immediately confronted by the wooden structures that support a wall extending halfway through the gallery space. Moving around this wall I saw two rooms constructed for this installation by Robert Gober which takes on enormous ideas and issues. In the space of this article I can only point out a few.

The bare structure of the wall built in the front of the gallery immediately disrupts the viewer's preconceived notions of the white walled box she/he is about to enter. Thus the viewer is immediately distanced from the experience. Moving around the wall to see what's in the gallery space builds a level of expectation and an element of surprise as the installation is revealed behind the wall.

Images of a sleeping white man and a hanging black man are juxtaposed in a repeating pattern on the three walls defining the first room. The attractive colors and pattern of the wallpaper contrasts with the violent implications of the imagery.

Similarly, the male/female genital wallpaper in the second room is both decorative in design and evocative in its content. In this room drains sunk into the wall bring to mind a number

See WHO IS ART on page 63



Photo: Ellen B. Neipris

HITCHCOCK FLASHBACK

Installation by Robert Gober at the Paula Cooper Gallery

tures is a facsimile of the Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV), the virus believed to cause AIDS.

I think the artist, Ronald Jones, was trying to perpetrate a hoax. By fabricating objects that looked like art, but actually representing agents of disease, he was trying to make a statement: The optimism and progressive ideas embodied in the forms of abstract art made earlier in this century masked ugly and evil aspects of existence.

tunism. He is literally capitalizing on the misery of others. Without regard for the real conditions of existence of those who are sick because of the diseases his sculptures represent, Jones uncritically accepts the way some diseases (like AIDS) are pictured in this culture—as a spectre with a will striking those who "deserve" it.

Using HIV and other viruses as metaphors for what's wrong with our culture, Jones ignores the political situation of thousands of people fighting

Performance

On Your Feet

by Jonn Wasser

Our national obsession with comedy has barely subsided. In recent months, we've witnessed *Saturday Night Live's* prime time Fifteenth Anniversary special, the announcement of two funnybone networks and a newly coiffed Barbara WaWa schmoozing with three top comedians. Even *People* magazine, that bastion of conventional gossip, is reportedly planning a special comedy issue.

I mention the above only to indicate the need for an enormous talent pool to fill the pages and timeslots. Comedy clubs abound, but do we still wish to hear the latest tirades from Sam ("I-failed-Weight-Watchers") Kinison or Andrew Dice Clay? For many, dialing a 970 number proves a more worthwhile late night investment. At the very least, a connection is made and if you pay close attention, you can even laugh a little. Trust me.

If sex lines still do not entice you, let it be known *Rubber Feet* has arrived, its webbed footings firmly implanted at various venues around town. Get ready for an evening devoted to mayhem, malarkey and comedic manslaughter. Virtually no stone is left unturned as this 14-member group inhabits various roles during their one hour show.

Rubber Feet emanated from director Stephen Rosenfield's Comedy Workshop, one of many area schools devoted to creating and performing

comedy. Consistently churning out first-class material is no easy task, which may explain some of the evening's comedic hiccups. At times, several sketches seem under-rehearsed and embryonic but the troupe's verve and sass carry them through to the end. They hit the mark in three out of four attempts; a better batting average than our beloved Mets or Yankees. I figured something was afoot when I heard 50 voices shouting, "Feet, Feet..." and the house lights still burned brightly. For the performers in *Rubber Feet*, one person's foibles is another's joy.

Sample One: Cloaked in a white toga, a nervous Oedipus visits his

cal humor, they are a kinder and gentler troupe; comedians even a Republican can enjoy. I assume this is partially due to the Company's make-up. Most are not stand-up comedians, but rather are actors with varying degrees of experience. One attended the Meryl Streep/Sigourney Weaver School of Drama (Yale), another toured in *Les Misérables* while still another *Rubber Foot* once served as the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's principal flutist. I always knew Scarlett O'Hara would eventually land on her feet.

Two of *Rubber Feet*, dare I say, put their best feet forward and emerge victorious comedians of tomorrow. Greg Pake, who portrays Oedipus, is a

handsome guy with a loose and nimble body. He has a light touch and a comic's sense of the absurd. I can easily visualize him acting in a Beckett or Ionesco play.

Deborah Filler is another find. At first glance in a sketch entitled "The Dank Sisters," she's seemingly too tall, big-boned and when she opens her mouth, her voice sounds filtered through Drano. But

oh does she blossom. Her timing is impeccable, the syllables flutter and her eyes glow. Filler reaches her peak enacting a New York yenta bent on eating during an attempted hijacking. She even strikes up a friendship with Mammoosh and Mohammed, the two hijackers. It's simply a comedic tour-de-force.

**Although several sketches
are flavor-of-the-month
political humor,
they are a kinder and
gentler troupe;
comedians even a
Republican can enjoy.**

doctor who naively questions the patient—"Married? Children? Father—alive or dead?" Sample Two: A man and a woman attend a closed door meeting—of the Chronically Bored. Sample Three: Two braggadocios go fishing and eat their catch only later to be informed the site is a toxic waste dump.

Many comedians or comedy troupes operate from rage, attempting to codify and finally place to rest negative childhood experiences and political upheavals. *Rubber Feet* employs a different tactic. Although several sketches are flavor-of-the-month politi-

*Rubber Feet will be appearing at
Theater Club Funambules, 167
Ludlow Street, Mondays, Oct. 16 and
30 at 8 p.m. and Don't Tell Mama,
343 West 46th Street, Sat. October 21
at 10 p.m. and Wed. Nov. 29 at 8 p.m.*

Books

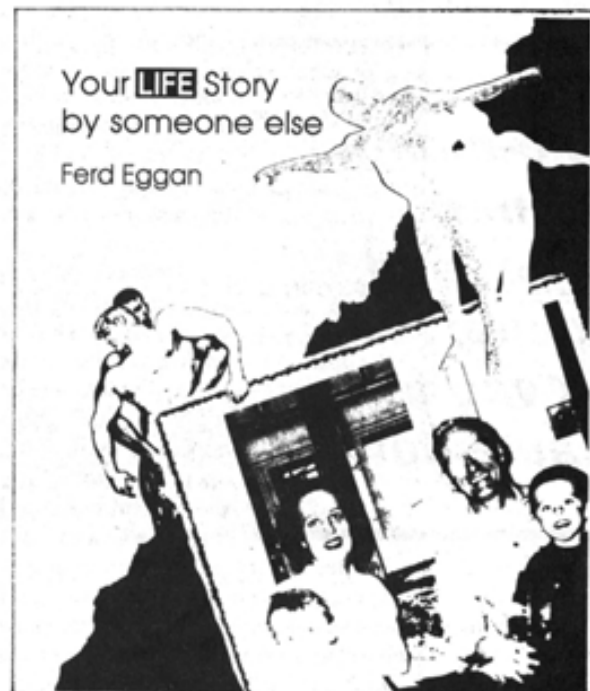
Fightin' Words

Your Life Story by someone else, by Ferd Eggan. Editorial Coqui. \$10.00
Drowning in Something: Selected Rantings, by Don Bapst. \$6.00

by Bob Rafsky

There's been too much written about the arts and AIDS. Critics are rushing to pin themes on artists who only have in common what we all do—a need to respond to an epidemic that envelops us.

So one approaches with caution a remarkable coincidence: Two AIDS activists from Chicago, Ferd Eggan



and Don Bapst, are also fine poets who reflect, among other things, on the epidemic and on their activism.

The danger is in making too much of this coincidence. Both Eggan and Bapst are caustic, sexy and funny, but they're also ferociously different.

Eggan's book can actually be judged by its cover, a collaboration between him and artist Mary Patten. Beneath the title (with the word "LIFE" appearing as in the *LIFE* magazine logo) and the author's name is a framed photograph of two young boys and their parents, seeming to be somewhere in America, circa 1950s. But

the photo is being grasped by, and covering the genitals of, a white Tom of Finland model who, in turn, is being grasped by a Black Tom of Finland model. Around them, asexual male cut-out figures point and leap towards the back cover, where they surround a photo of an AIDS protest banner.

This floating scrapbook is an accurate representation of what one finds inside. Much is displayed, and dwelt on, in Eggan's poetry; little is resolved. In a typical passage, he describes a stay in England during which he tries to deal from afar with his mother's lung cancer:

chunky boys like little Shakespeares working their way through drama & my mother & father old & it's not anything I'm noticing happening

Yet there's a deliberate quality to Eggan's lack of resolution, as if his life story demanded it. Eggan is clearly in control. *Dream of Ayatollah* begins:

First thousands of Ayatollahs in terrycloth gray bold up ornate picture frames.

It then proceeds through four equally short and striking images to end with this:

The phone rings in another apartment, the kind of phone with a real bell, sinister, insistent. My doctor tells me news of my lab results. Like Andy Warhol, I am dead. Andy with his hair so white and so very dry.

Eggan's control enables him to do surprising things. In *How I think about Andrew Goodman, murdered by racists in white Mississippi in the 60s*, he marries sensuality to anger by imagining Goodman's body:

How you were the last to die and I see you not brave but calm in the sweetness of your beauty. How your skin was so white and unblemished and you knew everyone loved you. How it could have been me or it could have been anyone of a thousand. How Black people have died by the millions and nothing is better.

Eggan's humor is the same—controlled and surprising. The book includes a take-out "Color-it-Yourself Poster" in which the President and his cabinet are infected by people with AIDS brandishing bloody thorns from the White House rose garden. And *Helpful Hints for Decorating: Play With Your Food* is so singularly clever that it almost begs to be anthologized.

But, for all its power, "Your Life Story" tries hard to avoid conclusions. In the last poem, partly printed over a

see FIGHTIN' WORDS on page 62

HOMOSCOPE

October 16-22

by Esoterica Porcelana de Zodiaca



ARIES 3/20-4/19 The week begins with breezy social intercourse but the 19th-21st will present frustrating decisions. If you're feeding specific people edited versions of who you are then you'd better be making money on the deal. Approval seeking is bullshit. It doesn't take any guts to be a clone honey, but it takes real character to be who the hell you really are.



TAURUS 4/20-5/19 The week starts out with the moon conjunct your sunsign, opposite Pluto. This means that there's something you must unveil, or regenerate within you. Coming out is something you'll do for your entire life. Taurus, it's your job this week to spread a little love, and hopefully a little enlightenment through the world.



GEMINI 5/20-6/20 The 17th-18th are great days for personal progress. Don't let anybody get in your way be it family, lover, friend, foe or employer. Femaphobia is rampant these days in men's fashions, so express yourself as you choose. Above all don't let inhibited people lay their own uptight concepts on you. You're a natural born revolutionary with a communicative spirit.



CANCER 6/21-7/22 The moon centers your sign on the 19th till the 21st. This will bring about a financial decision, and a possible job opportunity. You must question first personal happiness since you can never really put a price on it. The 21st begins to ease some of this month's early tension. Uranus, Neptune and Saturn are all leading you to loosen up and break free to pursue the opportunity of growth.



LEO 7/23-8/22 This is a fun time for friendship and frolic. You always want to do the right thing socially speaking. Your pride gets in the way and you try to emerge from every situation as the bigger person. Loosen up, be yourself and have fun. This is a better period now to relax and enjoy the beauty of the moment. Facts become clear in your relationships on the 21st-22nd.



VIRGO 8/23-9/22 Your love life causes minor frustrations due to Venus' funky aspects to your sun. If you're not communicating, then what can you expect? Start affirming for more and you'll receive it. Don't be a gloom and doomer, there's already enough negative shit in this world to triumph over.



LIBRA 9/23-10/22 This is a very social week but you keep confronting big decisions and occasional arguments. Libra is a very militant sign which plays peace-maker after they stir everyone else up into an argument. It's a passive aggressive tactic that becomes a pronounced trait when you are held captive by your own hostility. There is plenty that can be accomplished intelligently without being hostile.



SCORPIO 10/23-11/22 It's beginning to approach your favorite time of year, Halloween, and your birthdays are soon to come. It's important to work on your personal direction and self esteem. Scorpio is always sucked up in the saint/slut syndrome. A Scorpio will often whore it up, then retract for periods of abstinence as though they are afraid that their passion will take control of them. This is a negative, it all relates to sex, and sexual hang ups. Sex is beautiful and safe sex is no excuse for not enjoying the deep spiritual connection it has to your essence.



SAGITTARIUS 11/23-12/19 The week starts out of whack with proper details in your work. The 17th-18th will bring about more ease in work-related projects. Venus the pretty, bold and beautiful planet brings about good vibrations to your social life. A major flirtation will lead to an exciting possible office related romance on the 20th. Money matters are the big issue late in the week.



CAPRICORN 12/20-1/19 Uranus, Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune are all plugging you to break free and grow into a more satisfied individual. You may feel paranoid when it comes to meeting and sexually relating to new people. Safe sex is and can be very enjoyable. Don't let paranoia run rampant and rule you by denying the beauty of great sex. You are indeed the passionate sort but telltale convention makes you associate sex with the naughty and the dirty which is bullshit. Your best days are the 19th-21st.



AQUARIUS 1/20-2/19 The 15th-16th bring about frustrations at the job site. You can't seem to merge your personal and public life properly. Romance enters the picture on the 17th-19th. Most of your weekend will be frustrating and out of whack when it comes to clarifying plans. Everything seems like a great idea until it gets down to actually doing it. Save your energy for a pertinent question dropped your way on the 22nd.



PISCES 2/20-3/19 This week is relatively harmonious for you. Intuition is your ruse in romance where you are disturbed by a suitor's lack of communication. There are many a person who cannot cope with the emotional availability of another. Such people end their relationship, then reenter the treadmill of the find a new relationship game. Women, if you want to see what a true sorority feels like, this week is a good time to talk to friends about sharing next summer.

For personal astrology and tarot card readings mail your name and telephone number to Esoterica Porcelana de Zodiaca, c/o OutWeek Magazine, 77 Lexington Ave., Suite 200, New York, New York 10010.

GOING OUT

AN EVENTS CALENDAR

prepared by Rick X
with information from
The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of
New York

For more information or referrals, to
rap, or to volunteer, call the GLSB
daily, noon to midnight, 212-777-1800

Send calendar items to:

Rick X, Going Out
Box 790
New York, NY 10108

Items must be received by Mon-
day to be included in the follow-
ing week's issue.

MONDAY

OCTOBER 16

LAVENDER LIGHT GOSPEL
CHOIR Concert at Delta 88; 332
8th Ave at 26 St; 9:30 pm; 924-
3499

THE CLOSET CASE SHOW pre-
sents *Jeffrey's Drug and Lie
Detector Test*, in which our
young hero interviews for a job
working with the Kweez Beer
Company; on Manhattan Cable
TV Channel 16/C (if it's not cen-
sored); midnight (Editor's note:
the producer encourages you to
tape and share this show, for
educational and charitable pur-
poses only)

TUESDAY

OCTOBER 17

PROFESSIONALS IN FILM/VIDEO
present *Lou Maletta, President
of Gay Cable Network*, who will
discuss the growth of GCN and
show excerpts from new shows;
light refreshments; at the Center,
208 W 13 St; 6:30 pm; \$5; RSVP
required at 718/353-3006

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 18

NEW YORK AIDS COALITION
Two-Day Conference: *The
Community Based Service Sys-
tem: An Answer to AIDS*, high-
lighting the key role of
community-based efforts in the
struggle against HIV/AIDS; to be
held in Albany; write Susan Stam-
ler, NYS AIDS Coalition, 132 Nas-
sau St, 2nd Fl, NY, NY 10038

INSIGHT SEMINARS *Gift of the
Heart*, a five-day seminar for
people with any stage of HIV
infection or other life-threatening
illness, to encourage "positive
personal growth in the face of
life's many challenges and cir-
cumstances"; significant others,
family, and friends also invited;
through October 22; \$50; register
431-7777

SCRABBLE-PLAYERS CLUB Game
Night, newcomers should bring a
board; at the Center, 208 W 13 St;
8-11 pm; 570-9369

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS
*Eroticizing Safer Sex Work-
shop*, to learn the how-to's of
playing more safely while meet-
ing other men; at the Center, 208
W 13 St; 8-10:30 pm; free, no reg-
istration required; 807-6655, TDD
645-7470

CENTER STAGE sees *The Lady
in Question*, at the Orpheum
Theatre, 2nd Ave & 8th St; 8 pm;
\$35; 620-7310

PERFORMANCE SPACE 122 REEL
TIME presents *Six Films to Dis-
gust and Outrage* Jesse Helms,
with Jerry Tartaglia's *Ecce Homo*,
Robert Hilferty's *Cirque du SIDA*,
Carl George's *DHPG Mon Amour*,
Lisa Laquier's *Muell*, Jennifer
Montgomery's *Home Avenue*, and
Phillip B. Roth's *Boys/Life*, at 1st
Ave & 9th St; 9 pm; \$6 or TDF +
1; reservations at 477-5288

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 19

WOMEN ABOUT Cut-off date
for Sculpture Exhibit and Ron-
nie Gilbert Concert, 874-2104

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 20

WOMEN ABOUT Cut-off date
for Bontaque Crag Rock
Scramble, 201/481-0440

CRYSTAL QUILT presents Emily
McNally, PhD, CAC, discussing
the lives of lesbian recovering
alcoholics and how they work
through internalized shame and
the oppression of homophobia
and sexism; at Ceres Gallery, 91
Franklin St (btwn Bway &
Church); 7-9 pm; \$5; 529-7579

THE ANSWER IS LOVING
Women Talking Women's Talk:
"The Bare Facts"; the comfort
and discomfort of how we view
our body, from our "period" to
our "menopause"; led by Ruth
Berman and Connie Kurtz;
Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn; 7:45-
10 pm; \$8; 718/998-2305

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETH-
ER Men's Educational Forum:
AIDS Awareness and Eroticiz-
ing Safer Sex; at the Center, 208
W 13 St; 7:45 pm; 222-9794, 245-
6366

CONGREGATION BETH SIM-
CHAT TORAH Shemini Atzeret
Evening Service, at 8:30 pm, 57
Bethune St (near West St), 929-
9498

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 21

WOMEN ABOUT Cut-off date
for Mianus River Gorge Amble,
874-2104

THE NATION INSTITUTE and
THE NEW SCHOOL Conference:
"The Supreme Court and Daily
Life: Who Will the Court Pro-
tect in the 1990s?" with work-
shops on reproductive and sexual
freedom (led by Tom Stoddard
and Janet Benshoof), housing
and privatization, race and gen-
der discrimination, criminal
defense rights; at the New
School, 66 W 12 St; 9:30 am - 5
pm; \$20; 741-5630

CONGREGATION BETH SIM-
CHAT TORAH Shemini Atzeret
Day Service, at 10 am, 57
Bethune St (near West St), 929-
9498

CENTER KIDS Seminar: Legal

Issues for Gay Families, with
Paula Ettelbrick, Legal Director,
Lambda Legal Defense & Educa-
tion Fund; Judith Turkel, Co-
Chair of Lambda; child care
provided, open to all; at the Center,
208 W 13 St; 1-5 pm; \$5
donation requested; RSVP
requested, 353-8592, 362-5616

CRYSTAL QUILT presents Twila
Perry, MSW, JD, discussing *Just
in Case: Legal Contracts for Cou-
ples*, how to protect your interests
when you are in a partnership,
how legal contracts might
improve or damage relationships,
and to what extent agreements
are legally enforceable; in Green-
wich Village; 2-4 pm; \$10; info
529-7579

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETH-
ER Museum Outing to "I
Dream A World: Portraits of
Black Women Who Changed
America"; with 75 photos of
Lena Horne, Odetta, Rosa Parks,
Faye Wattleton, McBride Hale
and many others; at the Interna-
tional Center of Photography,
1130 5th Ave at 94 St; 3 pm;
Lidell 222-9794 (Exhibit closes
10/29, museum 860-1777)

RUTGERS GAY AND LESBIAN
ALUMNI/AE Kickoff Reception,
to celebrate the GALA's founding,
and the Rutgers University Les-
bian/Gay Alliance's 20th Anniver-
sary, to be held during the
Rutgers Homecoming Weekend;
at the Den, 700 Hamilton St,
Somerset, NJ; 6-9 pm; write Rut-
gers GALA, Box 160, New
Brunswick, NJ 08903-0169

CONGREGATION BETH SIM-
CHAT TORAH Shemini Atzeret
Dinner, at 6:30 pm, and Service
at 8 pm; 57 Bethune St (near
West St); 929-9498

BROOKLYN LESBIANS TOGETHER
Pot Luck Party; in Sunset Park,
Brooklyn; 8 pm; call to confirm a
dish; Angela, 718/439-7173 or
Evelyn, 718/439-7372

BROOKLYN WOMEN'S MARTIAL
ARTS Women of Color Com-
mittee Celebration, party and
dancing, all women welcome;

421 5th Avenue, Park Slope; 8 pm; \$5 more if/less if; 718/788-1775

GAY & LESBIAN UNION AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY Third Saturday Dance, with DJ; at Loeb Student Center's Elaner & Lubin Auditorium, 566 LaGuardia Place (off Wash. Sq. South); 9 pm to 1 am (doors close at midnight); photo ID needed to enter; \$5 general/\$3 students with ID/free for NYU students; 998-4938

NONSMOKING LESBIAN NETWORK Dinner and Show, 718/998-2536 till 10 pm

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 22

WOMEN ABOUT Cut-off Date for Village Dinner, 874-2104

CONGREGATION BETH SIMCHAT TORAH Simchat Torah Day Service, at 10 am, 57 Bethune St (near West St); 929-9498

HYACINTH FOUNDATION AIDS Awareness Walkathon New Jersey, a 10-Km fundraiser starting and ending at Douglass Campus, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; sign-in 11 am, opening ceremony 12:30 pm, walkathon begins 1 pm; 800/433-0254

LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND Walking Tour of Upper Fifth Avenue, visiting the Guggenheim Museum, the great organ of the Church of the Heavenly Rest, a private home on 90th Street, a chateau built by Andrew Carnegie, an Italian Renaissance palace built by Otto Kahn, the 54-room triplex of Marjorie Meriweather Post, and the Cathedral Church of the Russian Orthodox outside Russia; refreshments en-route; 1 pm; \$45 non-members/\$40 members (discounts for couples); reservations at 995-8585

WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE presents **LezzyVision Cabaret** with Maz Troppe and Susan Kay Ward; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 7 and 9 pm shows; \$8; RSVP 718/499-4373 (also 10/29)

WBN PRODUCTIONS present **Romanovsky & Phillips on their national tour**, at the Katie Murphy Amphitheatre, Fashion

Institute of Technology, 7th Ave & 27 St; 7:30 pm; \$12 (tix at Different Light Bookstore, 548 Hudson, 989-4850); WBN Prods. 201/865-3653, press info 212/619-5000 x2284

CENTER Women's Line and Square Dance, 208 W 13 St, 8-11 pm, \$10, 620-7310

HAPI'S BACKDOOR CABARET presents **Bagdad Gas and Oil Cafe Cabaret Show**, in which drag queens "inspired by the film *Bagdad Cafe* sing and dance, play piano and do magic tricks", plus a strip show by Hapi Phace; at the Pyramid, 101 Avenue A (btwn 6th & 7th Aves); midnight and 1 am show, dancing till 4 am; \$5; 420-1590

MONDAY

OCTOBER 23

WOMEN ABOUT Cut-off Date for Surprise Lake Hike in NJ, 201/481-0440

GAY ACTIVIST ALLIANCE IN MORRIS COUNTY presents **Lynn Lavner**, song stylist; at the Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd, Morristown, NJ; 8:30 pm; \$7.50; RSVP 201/285-1595

WNET-TV/13 Art of the Western World #104: The High Renaissance, featuring Da Vinci, Michaelangelo, Titian and Raphael; 9 pm

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 25

IDENTITY HOUSE "Women Loving Women" Conference, starts today and extends through November 11; 243-8181

CENTER STAGE sees **Three Penny Opera**, with Sting, Maureen McGovern, and Ethyl Elcheberger; 8 pm; \$65; 620-7310

FOOTSTEPS THEATRE COMPANY opens **Dig Volley Spike!**, a British comedy "about six members of a London women's volleyball team who find friendship and the courage to overcome obstacles both on and off the court"; at the RAPP Arts Center, 220 E 4 St; 8 pm; \$15; reservations 529-6160 (WED-SAT at 8 pm/SUN at 7 pm; through 11/12; \$7 previews 10/23 & 10/24)

GAY MALE S/M ACTIVISTS Meeting: Fetishes, with small groups discussing a smorgasbord including leather, uniforms, rubber, boots, more; at the Center, 3rd Floor, 208 W 13 St; 8:30 pm; \$5; 727-9878

EAGLE BAR Movie Night: Beaches; 142 11th Ave (at 21 St); 11 pm; 691-8451

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 26

NATIONAL EPISCOPAL AIDS COALITION Our Church Has AIDS National Conference; at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio; through Oct. 28; 214/343-6936

DISTRICT COMMITTEE 37 Gay/Lesbian Issues Committee, 6-8 pm, 718/439-7173

JUDITH'S ROOM BOOKSTORE presents **Valerie Miner** reading from **Trespassing and Other Stories**; 681 Washington St (btwn W 10 & Charles St); 7 pm; free, but seating is limited; 727-7330

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 27

SAGE/SHERIDAN SQUARE TOURS Weekend in Washington, through Sunday, 10/29; with motor coach tour of the city, National Zoo, Capitol Building, two dinners, free time to explore; \$269 per person; member info 741-2247

MEN OF ALL COLORS TOGETHER Ethnic Potluck Feast, where each person brings a dish to share with four people; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 8 pm; confirm your contribution at 245-6366

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 28

GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS Workshop: Keep It Up!, to "reaffirm the importance of safer sex, and feel confident about saying yes, whether you're into casual sex or serious dating, and no matter what your HIV status

is"; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; noon - 6 pm; register 806-6655, TDD 645-7470

CONGREGATION B'NAI JESHURUN Shabbat Spiritual Gathering for people with AIDS and their loved ones; luncheon, music, conversation, study, worship service; 257 W 88 St; 2 pm; free; 787-7600 (also 11/18, 12/16)

PEOPLE WITH AIDS COALITION Singles' Tea, for PWAs, PWArCs, HIV+; 222 W 11 St; 3-5:30 pm; 532-0568

MARANATHA: RIVERSIDERS FOR GAY/LESBIAN CONCERNS Halloween Potluck and Costume Party, in Brooklyn Heights; 7:30 pm, info 212/866-4043

DIGNITY/SUFFOLK, CERF-PAC, GAYMEN & LESBIANS IN BROOKHAVEN All-Hallows Eve Fundraising Party, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the guillotine; with beer, soda, punch, door prizes, buffet, DJ, lights, and graves by John & Bob; at St. Cuthberts Church in Selden, Long Island; 8 pm - 12:30 am; \$15 advance/\$20 door (limited seating); info 516/399-3048

ASIANS AND FRIENDS NEW YORK Saturday Social at the Center; member info 673-2596

COLUMBIA PEP BOYS PRODUCTIONS Same But Different Dance, for gay men and lesbians and their friends; Earl Hall, 116 St & B'way (#1 train); 10 pm - 2 am; \$5 with student ID or invite; 854-3574, 3576 (Note: this dance is not affiliated with the Columbia Gay and Lesbian Alliance First Friday dances)

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 29

LAVENDER LIGHT GOSPEL CHOIR Benefit Concert at St. Clement's Church, 432 W 46 St; 7 pm

WOMEN'S COFFEEHOUSE presents **LezzyVision Cabaret** with Maz Troppe and Susan Kay Ward; at the Center, 208 W 13 St; 7 and 9 pm; \$8; RSVP 718/499-4373

HAPI'S BACKDOOR CABARET presents **Carla Stimer** in a tribute to Gypsy Rose Lee; at the Pyramid, 101 Avenue A (btwn 6th & 7th Aves); midnight and 1 am show, dancing till 4 am; \$5; 420-1590

TELEVISION from page 51

sy. This could well be a William Higgins production.

But it is not. This is television and none of it is meant for queer boys. Right? Well, presumably not, but if *Booker* is not for us, then who? Maybe the straight 16-year-old girls that constitute a large percentage of the program's audience and who are the readers of the teen magazines that feature the likes of Greico monthly. Maybe. But even if that is the case, who's directing him to strike those poses? Who is costuming him in his towels, tight jeans and tank tops? Who is it that is composing shots that look more like a Soloflex ad than a cop-show? Who are the people that made the decision to create 'Greico the sex symbol,' and who noticed that he was sex-symbol material in the first place?

Given the hetero-dominance of the television industry (closet cases don't count), and its self-perpetuating programming, the *who* in *Who Framed Richard Greico?* is inevitably unimportant. Whether it was straight women (*Booker* is produced by a woman, sexual orientation unknown), closeted gay men, or the straight white upper-class conservative businessmen that run the television industry, *Booker*, and shows like it, are not produced with a gay male or lesbian audience in mind.

It's kind of like being seduced by a hot straight boy. They get you all revved up, then stop you before you can get it in gear. You end up with a wasted hard-on and a huge headache. This process can take some time, however, possibly enough time for *Booker* to accrue a quite sizable gay male audience.

Let's not hold our breath for mainstream network programming we can really sink our teeth into both politically and culturally. For the moment, until the networks realize that lesbians and gay men are a sizable part of their viewing audiences and begin to create programming for us, rather than despite us, our choices are limited to either tuning out or turning on, and possibly getting turned on in the process, whether we like it or not. ▼

FIGHTIN' WORDS from page 58

drawing of a nude young man, Eggan's sexual imagery is clear but tentative:

*my tongue will need some relief from the luxuriant textures
secrete or ooze, I hope I don't crush you
your hands will make greasy friction over my rounding belly
so I think I will fuck you; I think that is what is expected*

The cover of Bapst's poetry, like Eggan's, is revealing. In effect, there is no cover. His self-published poetry is sold in a manila envelope decorated with rubber stamps of his signature and face. The envelope invites the eye, but it also invites the hand to open it, even throw it away, and move on to the poetry inside.

And this is poetry about moving on. Where Eggan dwells on the moment, Bapst wants to pin it down and leave. Powerful images pass by the reader almost too quickly. The compelling *Shoes* makes this transition from bathhouse sex to a dance floor:

*When you pull shoes
over what you've done,
they feel like lies.*

After several vivid passages, the poem resolves into an activist vision:

*A hundred pairs of shoes bit the pavement,
rattling the very ground on which we stand...
Our shoes are potent,
Small in number and simple in design,
they're somehow courageous.
They've been locked in filthy lockers,
dragged over dancefloors,
dropped at the sides of strangers' beds.
They know where they're headed.*

Then there is *Biblebash*, in its entirety:

*Judgements scrawled over white slices of tree
like thin black cracks parting firm boyish buns.*

Nothing stands before Bapst's iconoclasm. Even his own emotions—twice in these pages he breaks down and cries—are recorded without reverence. The activism he celebrates is also harshly judged. Critical distinctions are made, as in his prose poem *the day they passed the human rights ordinance*:

*they voted on the human rights ordinance today. every dyke and fag in
the city talked about how swell it would be...my friend with the pad just
scribbled away...like there was some kind of future in those numbers. like
his rights were right there in that delicate balance of pen slashes on the
page... "we won/we won/we won!" and just what exactly did we win? what
exactly did we win?*

Ultimately, Bapst subjects his own poetry to his skepticism. Maybe none of it is worth stopping over, he hints at various places. To quote his own maxim:

*Oversimplification is a Prerequisite for any Form of Writing Since
Prosaic and Poetic Methods are Something Other than Experience Itself*

But, whatever he may say, Bapst's poetry is worth stopping over. Like Eggan, in his refusal to let anything, even the epidemic, get in the way of his own voice, Bapst is doing more than defying our expectations; he's defying the epidemic itself. ▼

WHO IS ART from page 56

of metaphors. The drains are absences and gaps. The wall have holes suggesting glory holes, assholes and vaginas.

In both rooms, the wallpaper functions to create a psychological context for the show. For example, a bag of doughnuts on a podium surrounded by the imagery of genitalia becomes sexually charged, resembling vaginas and assholes. Looking at the doughnuts I realized they were food and meant to be eaten. Suddenly, I felt implicated. The installation involved my sexuality as an aspect of the interpretation of the work.

The wedding gown surrounded by the sleeping man/hanging man imagery is forcefully charged with significance. The gown is empty. It stands by itself without any figure inside to prop it up. It brings to mind the notion of marriage. The images on the wall bring to mind the notion of racism. In this context the wedding gown stands in for the institution of marriage and a critique of that institution is implied. By positioning the figure of the wedding gown in relation to imagery suggesting racially motivated social biases, critical ideas are provoked.

Like racism, marriage in a heterosexual society is an oppressive institution. It casts women as property and it is used to invalidate same-sex relationships. Both racism and heterosexism are systemic forms of oppression that often engender each other. Gober's installation does not illustrate these points. It does allow for these readings and it provokes these realizations. The work is very open-ended and many interpretations are available. At the very least the work challenges the viewer to think about sexual identity and oppression.

Bags of cat litter are leaning against the wall around the wedding gown. These bags function as a formal device revealing an important aspect of the show. Upon close inspection the bags are revealed to be plaster casts of bags painted to look like bags of cat litter. In fact, all the objects in the room were fabricated by the artist. Gober cut the pattern and sewed the gown. He baked the doughnuts and

even made the white paper bag containing them.

Seeing this show is like going to see a Hitchcock film. Gober recasts objects to reveal hidden meanings and associations in a context that grounds them in social relations. The work takes great risks in meaning and asks the viewer to do the same. ▼

Ronald Jones' show is closed. Slides are available at Metro Pictures gallery.

Robert Gober's show is open until October 28, at the Paula Cooper Gallery—155 Wooster St. Tues.-Sat.

OUT & OUT from page 53

She has made it to New York only once that I know of when she played Nell's for a week in the summer of 88. Everyone from Dylan to Blossom Dearie sat banquet-side to drink in the aural machinations of the white-tuxedoed pink-lit babe with the definitive this-is-who-I-am-and-these-are-the-songs-attitude.

She was quite frankly devastating.

Finally, a white singer who did not try to sound black (sorry Rickie Lee) and yet had nothing white bread (sorry Joni) to say.

She doesn't bother with the gender game and is quite comfortable, thank you, with singing love songs written to women. *As Long As She Needs Me* will wilt the amazon heart to any Wittig female. Like her role model, Josephine Baker, Mathilde Santing also finds the socially-responsible twist in the subtext of some of our so called songwriter cynics. She has this thing for Todd Rundgren, John Cale, Harry Nilsson and Randy Newman as well as Richard Rogers and Cy Coleman and exposes them for the true romantics they try to hide.

Four CD's are around if you hunt hard in the hip import stores. All on Megadisc. The latest is co-produced with her friend Mimi (Zum) Kobayaski and contains some astonishing live songs recorded in concert including one Carson McCullers poem set to music by Rolf Hermsen. The least recommended CD is the one containing her original compositions. She is far better an interpreter than an originator. ▼

CHAPMAN from page 52

album sleeve I would never know that "People say it doesn't exist 'Cause no one would like to admit That there is a city underground Where people live everyday."

At the age of 24 Chapman was on stage with her idols jamming. Singing on stages throughout this world about justice, good-times, sad times, troubled times. When Chapman is on stage alone, with guitar, mikes, water, she slaps you in the face with Reality 101, 201, 301 and Grad studies. But then, she cuts her dreds, thanks her "friend," and sings like Alvin on speed.

The picture on the sleeve is a hot headshot (with locks). Two other pictures appear on the jacket (with locks). There seems to be a struggle. Artistically, it would be a shame if we lose the voice, power and understanding that we have come to know in the last two years.

I hope that Tracy Chapman finds the inner strength not to compromise, and stick to what she knows: simple lyrics, simple music sung in a straight forward way. After all, "all that you got is your soul... So my mama told me." ▼

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MEN & WOMEN

MONDAY

Limelight 6th Ave & 20 St 807-7850 (Marc Berkley's Salvation)
Private Eyes 12 W 21 St. 206-7770 (preppie; male strippers, 2-4-1 till midnight)

TUESDAY

***Love Machine** Broadway at 17 St. 254-4005 (at the Underground)
Tracks 531 W 19 St. 627-2333

WEDNESDAY

Club Lafayette 428 Lafayette St. (Scott Currie & R. Couri Hay)
Private Eyes 12 W. 21 206-7770 (Dallas & Sanker's Boys After Dark)
Red Zone 440 W. 54 St 582-2221 (Keoki & Sister Dimension)
Spectrum 802 64 St. Brooklyn 718/238-8213 (free admission all night)

THURSDAY

***Boybar** 15 1/2 St Marks Pl 674-7959 (has a new wave drag show)
***Copacabana** 10 E 60 St 755-0610 (last Thu. of the month has Susanne Bartsch party)
***Pyramid** 101 Ave A 420-1590 (Queer-Amid)
Spectrum 802 64 St Brooklyn 718/238-8213 (free admission all night)

FRIDAY

Basement 14 W. 22 St. 534-9824
***Boybar** 15 1/2 St Marks Pl. 674-7959
Columbia Dances Earl Hall, 116 St & B'way 854-3574 (1st Friday of every month)
Funk, Inc. 428 Lafayette St.
Private Eyes 12 W 21 St. 206-7770 (preppies and young professionals)
Spectrum 802 64 St Brooklyn 718/238-8213 (m/f strippers)
Tracks 531 W 19 St. 627-2333

SATURDAY

***Boybar** 15 1/2 St Marks Pl. 674-7959
The Center 208 W 13 St. 620-7310 (2nd and 4th Saturdays)
Private Eyes 12 W 21 206-7770 (Dallas and Sanker's Boys After Dark)
Sound Factory 530 W. 27 St. 643-0728 (non-alcohol, House music)
Spectrum 802 64 St Brooklyn 718/238-8213 (guest performer night)

SUNDAY

***Mars** Westside Highway at 13 St. 691-6262 (Chip Duckett's "Mars Needs Men" night)
Planet Earth 316 W. 49 245-8925
***Pyramid** 101 Ave A 420-1590 (Hapi Phace and Drag + Variety Show)
Spectrum 802 64 St. 718/238-8213 (show; free admission from 9-10)

EVERY NIGHT

Monster 80 Grove St. at Sheridan Square 924-3557

WOMEN

TUESDAY

Hatfield's 126-10 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, Queens
718/261-8484

WEDNESDAY

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Road, West Hempstead, LI 516/486-9516
Twenty/Twenty 20 W 20 St, 5-10 pm (Shescape, 645-6479)
Venus Flytrap 6 Bond St (btwn B'way-Lafayette) 979-6565 (PT Productions)

THURSDAY

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Road, West Hempstead, LI 516/486-9516

FRIDAY

Bedrock (West Hempstead, LI)
Cheeks 2000 Long Beach Rd. Island Park, LI 516-431-5700
Octagon 555 W 33 St 947-0400 (Shescape, 645-6479)
Tracks 531 W 19 St. 627-2333 (last Friday of month)
Visions 56-01 Queens Blvd. Woodside 718/846-7131

SATURDAY

Bedrock 121 Woodfield Rd., West Hempstead 516-486-9516
Silver Lining 175 Cherry Lane, Floral Pk, LI 516/354-9641 (a.k.a. "The Lining")
Starz 836 Grand Blvd., Deer Park, L.I. 516/242-3857
Twenty/Twenty 20 W 20 St, 5-10 pm (Shescape, 645-6479)

SUNDAY

Bedrock (West Hempstead, LI)

EVERY NIGHT

Cave Canem 24 1st Ave, at 1st St (Sandwich Sister Sunday, 529-9665)
Cubby Hole, 438 Hudson Street 243-9079
Duchess II, Sheridan Square 242-1408

NOTE:

All Phone numbers are area code 212 unless otherwise indicated.
Party events are subject to change.
* (TVs welcome)

Send corrections/additions to:

Rick X
Box 790
NY, NY 10108

GCN

Gay Cable Network

THURSDAYS

Pride & Progress

October 19

10:30 pm

- Gay Week in Review
- Act-Up
- GCN Close-Up
- Sports
- Lavender Health

Andy Humm with Political Guests

11:00 pm

The Right Stuff

- Naming Names
- All About Women
- Media Watch
- Staying Out
- Around the Country
- Razor Sharp

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the Feds in Orange County Parade

SUNDAYS

Men & Films

October 22

11:30 pm

Reviews of male erotica along with
interviews behind the scenes with film
stars

Tony Stefano—The Italian Stallion
plus clips from *Buddy System* and
Young Gladiators

MONDAYS

Be My Guest

October 23

10:00 pm

Sybil Bruncheon hosts a panel
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Frankie Loves Johnny An original
gay soap opera.

Sybil gets ready for Halloween

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874-9014

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309 Amsterdam Avenue.
874-9155

Cat's
730 8th Ave.
221-7559

Don't Tell Mama
343 West 46th St.
757-0788
Piano Bar

Jason's
23 W. 73rd St.
874-8091

Sally's Hideaway
264 W. 43rd St.
221-9152

Town and Country
9th Ave at 46th St.
307-1503

Trix
246 W. 48th St.
(bet. Broadway & 8th Ave.)
664-8331

The Works
428 Columbus Ave (at 81st)
799-7365

Johnny's Pub
123 E. 47th St.
355-8714

Regent East
204 E. 58th St.
355-9465

Rounds
303 E. 53rd St.
593-0807

South Dakota
405 3rd Ave.
684-8376

Star Sapphire
400 E. 59th St.
688-4710

EAST VILLAGE

The Bar
68 2nd Ave. (at 4th St.)
674-9714

Boy Bar
15 St. Mark's Place
674-7959
Dancing / Drag

The Pyramid
101 Avenue A
420-1590
Dancing / Drag

Tunnel Bar
116 1st Ave (7th St.)
777-9232

Badlands
Christopher & West St.
741-9236

Boots & Saddle
76 Christopher Street
929-9684

Cellblock 28
28 9th Ave
733-3144
j/o

The Cubbyhole
438 Hudson (Morton St)
243-9079
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243-9041
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70 Grove St (7th Ave.)
242-1408
Women

J's
675 Hudson St.
242-9292
j/o

Julius
159 W. 10th St.
929-9672
Serving Coors, Coors Lite, &
Coors Draft.

Keller's
384 West St. (at Christopher)
243-1907

Kelly's Village West
46 Bedford St.
929-9322
Piano Bar

The Locker Room
400 W. 14th St. (9th Ave)
459-4299
j/o

Marie's Crisis
59 Grove St. (7th Ave)
243-9323
Piano Bar

The Monster
80 Grove St. (7th Ave.)
924-3558
Piano Bar / Dancing

Nimbus 22
22 7th Ave. South
691-4826
Dancing, pinball, pool,
lounge

Ninth Circle
139 W. 10th St.
243-9204

Ramrod
185 Christopher St.

Sneakers
392 West St.
242-9830

Two Potato
145 Christopher St.
242-9340

Ty's
114 Christopher St.
741-9641

Uncle Charlie's
56 Greenwich Ave.
255-8787
Video Bar

EAST SIDE

Brandy's Piano Bar
235 E. 84th St.
650-1944

G.H. Club
353 E. 53rd St.
223-9752

WEST VILLAGE

The Annex (to Cellblock 28)
673 Hudson St.
(bet. 13th & 14th)
627-1140
j/o

CHELSEA

Barbary Coast
64 7th Ave. (14th St.)
675-0385

The Break
232 8th Ave. (22nd St.)
627-0072

Chelsea Transfer
131 8th Ave. (bet. 16th &
17th)
929-7183

Eagle's Nest
142 11th Ave (21st St.)
691-8451
Leather / Levi's

Private Eyes
12 W. 21st St. (bet. 5th & 6th)
206-7770
Dancing, Video Club

Rawhide
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is a community based support group formed in Westchester County. Various activities are planned for the coming months.
Please call 914-376-0727 for more info.

GLAAD

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212-645-7470 TDD (For the Hearing Impaired)
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(212) 633-8926 TTY for deaf

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Educational services, political action, counseling and social activities in Spanish and English by and for the Latino Lesbian and Gay Community. General meetings 8:00 p.m. 4th Thursday of every month at 208 West 13th Street.
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NORTH AMERICAN MAN/BOY LOVE ASSOCIATION (NAMBLA)

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PERSONALS

NEW THIS FALL
Sane, FUN, date available, for a fairly masc. & well built, nice looking WM turned on by a cute, slim, somewhat-less-masc. WM. I'm 29, 5'10", 130#, beard, must, glasses, imaginative, intelligent, fairly hairy, passionate, & monog. Seeking: physically & emotionally HEALTHY companion, 28-42, educated, hot, out, open & genuine, for socializing based on potential for MUCH more. Photo, etc. to: PO Box 1330, Murray Hill Station, NYC, 10156-0605.

DWNTWN HIPSTER
Hdsm GBM, 28, 6', 155, w/Bachelor pad stalking Coolkat for fun, adventr & psychodelic SS (Subtle kink at) I DIG: Hdsm GWM 25-35, 6' chilled w/vers. cucumber, buns & accessories (suit & tie or jeans-1 on 1 or 2) You Dig: you, design, ideas, cuisine, parties, mucho SS & of course ME! This shy-extrovert awaits your proposal of seduction (w/foto & phone for mine) No Drugs or smoke. Outweek Box 1502

ATTN ALL HOME-BOYS
Do you play a little B-ball and chill to rap music? Are you a real man who gets the urge for some hot man to man action? If so and you are Black or Latin male 18-30 this 29 yr old Homeboy wants to check you out. I'm Masc, discreet, and always ready - write POB 20983, Midtown Stn, NYC 10129.

LOVE = LIFE

35 GWM 5'6", 160, Br/Br, balding, moustache, HIV+ and ok about it, seeks man together, caring for fun, loving relationships based on respect. I've been thru the 70's & 80's with great pleasure had to adjust to new realities no regrets only expectations for the 90's, write w/photo &

years old. Seeking compatible GWM to share movies, theater, music, quiet evns/times, fun and more. Send letter/phone# to: Outweek Box 1507

LOOKING FOR MR.

RIGHT
I'm 27, WM, 6', 160lbs, attrac, clean, cut, gym bod, into ther, movies, books, travel & good

kissing--& if the chemistry clicks--someone to hold tight all thru the night! U got NY accent = +! Thanks, talk to U soon, please respond w/reply, phone & photo (if poss.) Outweek Box 1510

WHITE MALE

30, 5'10", 155lbs, handsome, clean-shaven, well-built, Ital-

date. We want 2 get to know each other and have lasting relationships. Lets travel new roads to enrich our love 4 each other. Love is also roses on Sunday/dinner 4 2, a romantic hideaway, finding that special love & celebrating each day together. Outweek Box 1514

GENTLEMAN PREFER BLOND

Latin Male, 27, 5'9", 150lbs, professional, healthy, athletic, gym body, aggressive but loving, seeks attractive affectionate, slender and sexy guy (blonde a +) 17-31 for a long term monogamous love affair, send letter/photo/phone #. Outweek Box 1515

BUILD A NEST?

GWM, 43, 5'10", 160 lbs., generally considered intelligent and humorous with wide range of skills and interests, reasonably successful, lots of good friends but currently without the capstone, that special someone. Seeking a partner interested in the slow explorations, joys and agonies of building a nest. Let's start communicating and see where it leads. Outweek Box 1145

S + M ROMANCE

Handsome G/BM, 34, seeks GM 25-50, for safe healthy s&m romance. All serious replies. Ans. right now! Photo/phone to: P.O. Box 314, New York City 10009.

HNDSM HUNG GBM

Top, seeks affectionate bottom, preferably Hispanic or Italian for friendship. Goodlooking intelligent, clean and honest a must, 40-60 years. Photo, if possible, will return. Outweek Box 1187

DO YOU SPEAK

softly and carry a big stick? Me/ GWM, handsome, 28, Br/Grn, gym body, 5'9", 150 and tired of bars. You/ young, hunky and hung into movies, dinners and great healthy sex

**PERSONALS
CONTINUE
ON PAGE 78**

PERSONALS OF THE WEEK

AMBIDEXTROUS

Somewhere out there must be a handsome man under 40 whose body is in as good shape as his mind I'm 33, 5'7", 135, good body, smart, beautiful face and ready for someone who can carry on a conversation while he fucks me blind.

DWNTWN HIPSTER

Hdsm GBM, 28, 6', 155, w/Bachelor

pad stalking Coolkat for fun, adventr & psychodelic SS (Subtle kink at) I DIG: Hdsm GWM 25-35, 6' chilled w/vers. cucumber, buns & accessories (suit & tie or jeans-1 on 1 or 2) You Dig: you, design, ideas, cuisine, parties, mucho SS & of course ME! This shy-extrovert awaits your proposal of seduction (w/foto & phone for mine) No Drugs or smoke.

phone to Outweek Box 1504

M - F THREESOME

Bi Male/St Female seeks adventurous male to fulfil a fantasy, condoms a must, write Outweek Box 1505

HAIRY SEEKS SMOOTH

GWM, 38, 5'10", 168, Dark Hair Hairy, very hot, passionate, warm, honest, wants blond/redhead, 18-35, clean shaven smooth bottom, serious only for more than one nite, write box 1536, NYC 10276, PH/PH must.

LIFE TO SHARE

sharing life and experiences is what it's all about, isn't it? Am committed, monogamy-orientated GWM, 6', lean, attr, clear shvn, Prof, intelligent, non-smoker, runner and young 47

times. If your 30-40, attrac, phys fit, moustache a +, send Ph/Ph, & lets make fireworks. send letter to: Outweek Box 1508

AMBIDEXTROUS

Somewhere out there must be a handsome man under 40 whose body is in as good shape as his mind I'm 33, 5'7", 135, good body, smart, beautiful face and ready for someone who can carry on a conversation while he fucks me blind. Outweek Box 1509

LOOK 4 BUDDY

GWM, 28, 165, cin shavn, hairy bod, dark hair & looks, straight acting, in searh of a buddy & who is similar in appearance for horseplay: playful wrestling, massage, showers, land? I love body contact-hugging,

ian. Cultured, but streetwise, with military background. Hoop, science, pubs, and a sincere willingness to explore various avenues of companionship. Interested? PO Box 429, Red Hook Station, New York, 11231-0007.

NEW AGE PROF.

BiWM, 5'10", 160lbs, 35, auhgry, very good looking, warm, creative, great sense of humor, straight acting, deep thinking, healthy, non-smoking/drugs, seeks same to 39, photo/phone, write bx 7590, NYC, 10150.

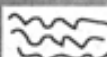
TEAM CAPTAIN

Hot WM, 33, 6'1", 185lbs, vy handsm, masc, and wrks out. Seeks tall/big guy, who was or wishes he were a TEAM CAPTAIN, to act out sweaty locker room frat hazing, feet, and more explosive action. Call Tom btwn 8pm-12mid, to meet in NYC (no phone j/o) at 212-675-7352.

LOVE IS

Being close 2 each other, a moon lit beach, being snowed inn, Mon night Ft Ball, hot sex, pass/love, sharring & caring. Me, GM, 27, GF & 210. YGM, 24-44, Tall, Dark, we both-Prof, and MN based on 1st

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GWF 31,
seeks friends to share
interests that include
country living, garden-
ing, R&B music, old
movies and most
important, polishing
the inner soul. I'm gre-
garious, interesting
and creative. I have 55
acres upstate I wish to
start a business on. I
need people with
ideas and strong
arms. Outweek Box
1233

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HATTANITE**
5'10", 160#, athletic
tanned body, attractive
Calif-born Ivy League

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P-TOWN WINTER
Hot blond facing lonely winter seeks stimulation. I am 29, B/B/I, 6', 160 lbs. of lean, hard muscle. Spiritual, sensual smart and fun. Open to anything from phone sex to serious relationship. Send me your thoughts, hopes, dreams, fantasies-I will respond in kind. Outweek Box 1237

FRAT SCENES
Butch little blonde
seeks other hot young
top guys into initiations
and other fun group

scenes. Make your fantasy into reality. Photo/phone to Box 478, 496 LaGuardia Place, NYC 10012.

GWF TOGETHER
30 something, smart,
easygoing, Italian
/Scorpio, feminist,
healthy, happy
cool/warm/hot, old
fashioned values
mixed w/ wide streak
of bohemianism seeks
emot. healthy, soft-
hearted, hot-blooded
woman for life partner-
ship spiced with
beaches, brunches,
friends, media
(books/mags/films/eve-
n t.v.), all performing
arts (I'm a prof. stage
manager), changes,
choices, hysterical
laughter, wild sex,
etc.-i.e., the right
stuff! The real thing:
Trust, lust, love! Write
OutWeek Box 1241

FLOWER OF THE MOUNTAIN
Yes, when I put the rose in my hair like the Andalusian girls used to or shall I wear a red. Yes, and how he

kissed me under the Moorish Wall and I thought, "Well, as well 't' him as another..." and then I asked him with my eyes to ask again and then he asked me would I say yes, my Mountain Flower...GWM, 28, mystical, smart, has ideals, open heart, sure voice. Photo /phone to PO Box 401157, Brooklyn, NY 11240.

GWF, 30, VERY PRETTY
funny, faithful, complex, moody, mature, sarcastic, selective. I'm semi-normal, not into gay scene, clubs, roles, or men. Searching for a goodlooking, unpretentious, older (30-42) woman with values and an off the wall sense of humour, who isn't dykey, tall, bi, easy, or a funloving partier. Redheads, dark-eyed brunettes, accents, kids, and big breasts are a plus. Recent photo and letter if you're for real, 'cause I am. P.O. Box

3092, Clifton, NJ
07012. Manhattan or
Jersey preferred.

HEY DYAN!
Happy Birthday to you
Hope your dreams can
come true. May this
year find you happy,
and all the years to
come too. (did you
sing?) (sometimes
corny is the only way)
Love ya, KATHIE

ASIAN STUDS
Chubby GWM, baby-faced, 39, 5'5", 200 clean-shaven, hairy chest and belly, br/br, w/c, seeks w/lt., masculine GOM, "South Asians" 4 safe, hot action! Midtown, day/night. Ph/ph 2 TJ, Box 112, Executive Suite, 330 West 42nd Street, NYC, NY 10036.

CONNECTICUT
GWM, 28, seeks friends for my occasional business trips to New York or yours to Hartford. 5'8", 135 lbs., light brown hair, attractive. Race unimportant. Photo appreciated. P.O. Box 31434, Old State House Station, Hartford, CT 06103.

TALL TOPMAN-NYC
GWM, 5'2", 195 lbs.,
40's, hunk, butch,
smooth, sensitive, dis-
creet, easy-going, into
the arts. Safe sex only.
Seeks caring relation-
ship with bottom, tall,
hunk. "NO" to smok-
ing, drugs, drinking.
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sense of humor, fun
times, sincere, good-
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turing, and loving envi-
ronment. Write: "W",
P.O. Box 325, Wall
Street Station, NYC,
10268. Photo a help if
possible. Thanks.

TRUST TRAINING
GWM, 39, 6', 180
attractive, masculine,
seeks similar profes-
sional to help unwind
in 9 1/2 Weeks-type
games of control. Dis-
cipline, teasing and
trust. Safe, hot, erotic
scenes involving fan-
tasy, bondage, blind-
folds, toys, but mainly

my very creative mind (and yours?). I'm usually dominant, can be submissive depending on my partner. Let's explore and expand our limits of sensuality: letter, phone, photo (if possible) to: P.O. Box B20386, Columbus Circle Station NYC, NY 10023.

MUSCULAR TOP-MAN
Sexy BB, 44, 6'1", 200#, 16" arms, 45" chest, 32" waist, S/P beard and hair, healthy, imaginative & sane, prefers long, steamy, intense oral service from equally butch guys. Hairy, short, thick-built Jewish and Itals a special turn-on, but if you're a hot bottom & would love to give great head to this beefy, masculine guy, write me. Photos exchanged, returned: C.J., P.O. Box 20616, Col. Cir. Sta. NYC 10023.

INTELLIGENCE
Very intelligent, very handsome W/M, 35, 135, 5'8", Br/Bl, masculine with no affectations. Looking for another bright, natural guy. Mark, Box 703, FDR Station, NYC NY 10150.

MUSCULAR SLAVE
GWM, 37, 190# wants you for his slave. Friendly Master wants to dominate you for his pleasure and possibly yours. You should be very muscular. Large endowment a plus but not necessary. Responses with explicit photo and letter, phone # answered first. London Terrace Station #20276, NYC, 10011.

SUBMISSIVE WM,
40, 5'9", 145, dancer's
body, will wear
panties, nylons, high
heels, etc., for doniant
hung men. Discreet,
kinky dates at your
place. NYC only. Lee,
POB 146, Prince St.
Station, NYC 10012.

GWM, 27, BANKER,
5'10", 155 lbs.,
brn/grn, friendly, hand-
some, intelligent,
healthy, interested in
friends and/or relation-
ship with someone

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5'11" or over with similar qualities. For fun with friends I like restaurants, movies, theatre, clubs, beach, travelling overseas, etc. I am fairly career-oriented and serious but into having fun whenever possible, and most of the time my job doesn't get in the way of my personal life. I would describe myself as caring, supportive and fun. Please write and tell me about yourself. PK, Box 1622, NYC 10025.

INTIMACY

Always need to be working on it. At 32, 5'5", 115 lbs., br. h & e, I am firmly established in my appearance, yet not set in my ways. Intermittent ACT-UPer, who likes to sing and when on my own watches late-night & Sunday morning t.v., seeks guy who also enjoys the arts and politics. Want to meet, go out, and only if we're both into it have sex. Greater commitment desirable, but not with anyone and only with some time. Reply to P.O. Box 20079, NYC, 10009.

PEACH OF A GUY

Looking for someone intelligent, affectionate, loyal, employed, adorable, fuckable? This GWM, 32, 5'11", 155#, brown/blue w/stache, HIV- (safe sex only), likes keeping his man happy, horny, satisfied, and coming back for more. If you're a tall GWM, 33-44, serious, who can envision shacking up with another guy for a couple of decades, send me a letter. OutWeek Box 1333

BI WHITE MALE

Good-looking, very well-built, muscular, straight-acting/appearing guy, 36, 6', 170 lbs. Professional, healthy and discreet seeks similar professional well-built masculine guy for friendship and safe good times. Can be free weekdays. Box 2479, NY, NY 10185.

COCKSUCKER

Hot, horny handsome GWM, 37, 5'7", 165 lbs., brn/brn brd wants to suck men, 18-40. Let me wet your dick. 498-A Hudson St. F-48, NY, NY 10014.

SEEKS FRIENDS

White male couple, early 40's, healthy non-smokers looking to expand social circles, seeks other couples. Enjoy theatre, restaurants, day trips, home entertaining. Please write to: P.O. Box 1636, New York, NY 10185-0014.

KRAZY KAT SEZ:

Oi, yoi, yoi, what a unheppy ket I am these "brickliss" dazell! Monogamous hermaphrodite has lost her Ignatz and iz done cryin' about it. I'm seekin' en attractive, caring gesbian who can love an unusual girlfriend. Thrill-seekers, genderists, lust monsters and wierdos need not apply... I get enuff uh thet shit on thuh street. Send yer resumaze en pix to: P.O. Box 20801, NYC 10009. Attn: K.U.A.

CAT WANTS A DOG

Beautiful boyish GWM-30/looks 20, 5'7"/120/brn/hzl-sleek, sensual, sensuous cat, seeks extra handsome champion pedigree dog-GWM, 25-35. Muscles, sideburns, sexy eyes hidden behind glasses, and hairy and/or bow legs a plus. Must have shots, no worms. Send photo/ phone/papers to OutWeek Box 1258. Boxers, Bull Terriers, German Shepherds, and Great Danes welcome. No Huskies or Poodles, please. OutWeek Box 1258

HIV+

Attractive Med Student, 30 yo, 5'9", 155, seeks masc M to share quality time. I love the Mets, walks in the park, cuddling, cats, quiet evenings at home, walking across the Brooklyn Bridge, theatre, cooking and good books. You should be content with quality over quantity,

Romantic and supportive. Bklyn res. or Italian/Latin a plus. T.P. Box 7047, FDR Station, NYC, 10150. Will answer all so please include photo if you have one. I will reciprocate.

RSVP

I'm a successful, secure, admittedly shy, GWM, 42, 5'8", 144, and fit. Born with good looks, acquired tenderness, self-awareness and a romantic outlook; request the response of attractive monogamy-oriented guys for a quality life of playfulness and sensuality. Will exchange photos. P.O. Box 20141, NYC 10028-9991.

1 TO 1

relationship desired. WM, bl/bl, 29, 5'4", 135, good-looking, warm, sensitive, caring, real! Looking for someone special, 25-35, who is honest, energetic, intelligent, romantic, etc. to build

meaningful monogamous relationship. Please send a letter and photo (if possible) to P.O. Box 7166, FDR Station, NYC, NY 10150.

GBM, 20, NYU

Attractive, earthy student seeks similar masculine, witty guy for warmth and special friendship. Latins, Europeans (French), Caribbeans a big +. Genuine replies only. Box 996, New Rochelle, NY 10801.

FRIEND/LOVER

GWM, 29, 5'4", 135, Bl/bl, good-looking, intelligent, shy, healthy-not into bar scene because I'm shy-I find it hard meeting people. My tastes are varied-music, film, theatre, parties, dancing, reading, country drives, antiques, quiet evenings. I seek a long term friendship/relationship w/someone I can count on to be there. If U R 28-36, trim, good-looking, intelligent, masculine,

sensitive and easy-going, please respond w/photo and phone and detailed letter to P.O. Box 7166, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150. Thanks.

I NEED A MAN

who'll take a chance... on being open, aware, close, safely intimate, a friend. Possible relationship/love can develop w/time-work. Sure, we all have preferences; but, life's too short to get hung up on absolutes/attitudes that are unrealistic. I'm a non-perfect, non-cretin, nice bottom GWM, 45, 5'7", 210 who seeks a basically top similar male. Write: P.O. Box 4547, L.I. City, NY 11104.

PEACH OF A GUY

Looking for someone intelligent, affectionate, loyal, employed, adorable, fuckable? This GWM, 32, 5'11", 155#, brown/blue w/stache, HIV- (safe sex only), likes keeping his man happy, horny, sat-

isfied, and coming back for more. If you're a tall GWM, 33-44, serious, who can envision shacking up with another guy for a couple of decades. Send me a letter. OutWeek Box 1268

HANDSOME GWM, 24

6', 150, br/br, swimmer's build. Do you like dancing and Dvorak; the Met and the Mets; moonlight & stage lights; working out & sleeping in? Are your tastes eclectic? If you are tired of bars and looking for new friends or more, write with photo and phone to: OutWeek Box 1270

PART 1 OF 3

GWF, 22, seeks mates for self and best friend (also roomie). GWM, 24: Both Taurus (and stubborn), "out" since early teens, long time friends. Frequently lazy, sometimes

**PERSONALS
CONTINUE
ON PAGE 80**

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bitchy, and always lots of fun. Looking especially for other pairs like us, but singles okay. No b's, bores, or "confused". Must be politically aware if not active. Photos a must! We may already know you! (Phones optional). All replies answered. See part 2 and 3. OutWeek Box 1271

PART TWO OF THREE
GWM, 22, 5'6", dark

hair/eyes, butch/fem depending on attire and situation. Hate sports, eat red meat and smoke, but don't do drugs; quiet except when complaining but friendly, compassionate and cute. Needs: Outgoing GF, 5'2"-5'6", 21-35, who can laugh and cry with me, likes music and dancing. Must be modern and N.Y. oriented. See also parts one and three. OutWeek Box 1271.

PART 3 OF 3
GWM, 24, 5'7", blue-eyed, bleach blonde closet Romantic with an unequalled sense of humor. Very popular and used to being the center of attention but very giving and caring. Happy with flowers and a phone call. Needs: Strong, silent type, long dark hair, 5'4"-5'10", 18-25 (307). Must have patience, pretty eyes, and a steady job. See also parts one and two. OutWeek Box 1271.

GWM 36, 5'10", 150 LBS.,
handsome, green eyes, moustache seeks attractive, in-shape guys into music, movies and hanging out for friendship and/or relationship. NYC/AREA-BKLYN PREFERRED. PivPh please. David, P.O. Box 30221, NYC, NY 10011.

BARE BUTT SPANK
by small guy, 5'5", 115 #, 32. Bend over the back of my couch. Roll

around on my carpet. Straddle across my knee. Beg for more. Now tell me why you need it. Box 20079, NYC 10009, E. Village.
LONDON ENGLAND
Handsome Irishman just returned from vacation in New York City. Would like very much to keep in touch with some friendly New Yorkers interested in long distance correspondence. Who knows what may develop! An uncomplicated, fun friendship is all I ask. Write with photo to: Joe Kelly, Flat 24, Grosvenor Court, 75 Christchurch Avenue, London England, N.W.6. 7NX

SEEK LIFEMATE
WM, 31, attr, 155, br. hr., hazel eyes, seeks husky, bulky, possessive guy for old-fashioned romantic 1 to 1 sex only. I crave humping and erotic talk, my interests include photog., video, sci-fi films and t.v. (avid trekker). DCH, P.O. Box 1401 Cooper

Station, NY, NY 10276.

HOT ITAL BB BTM
Just learning to take it and I love to give it. How about you? Help me teach him how much he can take. We're mid-30's-hot. If you're hung, attr and under 40, send photo/phone to P.O. Box 150, Prince Street Station, NYC 10012.

FUN/BRIGHT/PASSIONATE,
GWM, 42, handsome and fit looking to meet similar attractive guys who understand that tenderness and laughter are the keys to love and sex. You are playful and stable for the long run. Pivph to P.O. Box 20141, NYC, 10028-9991.

HISPANIC-GWM
Goodlooking 22, 5'5", 135 lbs, lean, youthful, carefree, mature. Healthy outlook on life.

PERSONALS CONTINUE ON PAGE 82

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Love to dance, bike, skate, touch, learn. Am artist, masculine, non-smoker. Looking for others with similar interests and more. Outweek Box 1286

VINTAGE 1948

Handsome GWM, hith prof, 5'8", 150 #, Bl/br, native NY sks mate to give quality loving when I'm home from a hard day at the hospital. I love Aretha, Bach, theatre and film. I do have wonderful friends and family but lack a husband. What's life without caring for someone special and letting them care for you? Left politics and sense of humor essential... Please send photo (if possible), phone. Write Outweek Box 1287

BEASTMASTER

Feel like an animal during sex? Hypnosis may let you feel as if you are really transforming. I am good looking or better. Send letter and photo(face) to DH, P.O. Box 350-

148, Brooklyn, NY 11235-0003.

S + M ROMANCE

Handsome G/B/M, 34, seeks GM 25-50, for safe healthy s+m romance. All serious replies. Ans. right now! Photo/phone to: P.O. Box 314, New York City 10009.

BEYOND THE STARS

GWM, 34, 5'9", 150, brn/brn, muscled, seeks partner interested in relationship/friendship. Our interests include gym, sports, theatre, art, movies, reading, travel, skiing and beach. We compliment each other as winners, are both professionals, successful, very good-looking, masculine, smart, secure, know who we are and into personal growth. If you are 26-40 and meet my criteria, please send phone # and photo and written response for a reply. Outweek Box 1291

DO U SKATE-BOARD?

GWM, blonde, blue, 29. My religion is Industrial Design. Weaknesses for: steel blue eyes, music of the Simple Minds, air-walking on ramps or streets, and systems using MS-DOS as the keys. User friendly from downtown arts to Uptown stars. Gentlemen: VGA Display & 640 K (goodlooks and smarts) recommended; modem input w/ postscript output (phone with photo) desired; Macintosh support (different interests) welcomed; copy protected (no moustached clones). Joy-stick required. Outweek Box 1298

LOOKING FORWARD
to Romantic nights in front of fire, candlelight dinners and special friendships GWM, 32, 6'2", 200, blue/blonde seeks similar nsmkr., prof., to share life, love and especially laughter. Ph/ph to Outweek Box 1299

NATURAL BODIES
WM, 27 y.o., 6', 170 lb., slim build, ruddy complexion, pleasant face, very long red hair. Long time celibate interested in dating. Prefer WM, dark hair (balding fine), paunchy or chunky build. Good attitude and easy-going. Kindly direct replies to: Outweek Box 1300

FALL ROMANCE
GWM, 32, 6'3", hndsm, prof and athl swimmer's build seeks similar GWM, deancut for fall Romance, fun and exploration of the physical and spiritual. Hot times are waiting, so send your ph/ph ASAP. Outweek Box 1301

TEN G/BIWM'S SEEK
like, trim, masculine, health-conscious, gregarious for monthly meetings midtown hotel suite. Send note & SASE: P.O. Box 6653 FDR, NY, NY 10150.

HANDSOME AND HUSKY

Latin, 31 years old, 5'9", perf. artist, mat., educ'd, HIV+, healthy, sensual. U R: mat., masc., hung top w/ varied interests into big guys for fun and rom. Serious + loving men 30-45 a plus. Phone and photo please OutWeek Box 1304

SHOW YOUR ASS
to an experienced master for evaluation, further probing. Swimmers, slaves, jockeys, jocks, bodybuilders, accountants, posers, pro or am. Send photo. PO Box 022301, Brooklyn, NY 11202.

LOVE GLADIATORS
Got a wrestling/combat fantasy? Chubby GWM, 39, 5'5", 200, br/br, c/n shv, hry chst, u/c, seeks masc., w/blt studs 2 sweat out our hot-test darkest scenes inmy midtown apt. Day/nite. No "real" rasslin' but our "match" can be as fun, erotic and/or "brutal"

as you want! Costumes, nude, oil, tits, hot talk, "dirty" holds, SS, j/o. Ph/Ph 2 TJ, box 112, executive Suite 330 W. 42 Street, New York, ny 10036. Ethnic, BB a+.

FASHION CHIC

GWM, 29, 185 attractive, healthy, non-prmiscuous. I like movies theater, brunch, holding hands, streisand, N.Y., Seeks GWM 25-35 for friend to share good time together. And looking for that all important man to share my life and love. Send letter, phone number and photo a must. Outweek Box 1314

GAY ACTIVIST

PWA, 6', 155#, brwn brd, trim defined build, lng hair & legs + bdrn bl eyes seeks a man +6" + beely, HIV+, who shares qualities of rough enough for safe sleeze, touch enough

**PERSONALS
CONTINUE
ON PAGE 84**

CHEAP DATE

OutWeek Personals — Now just five bucks for up to seven lines, and we'll run it for three weeks! Meet Mr. or Ms. Right—or maybe a sexy stud or studette for a safe and sultry one night romp. Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in *OutWeek Personals*. And for five smackers, you can't go wrong. Just use the order form on page 76 — and remember, this offer doesn't include mail forwarding charges, and extra lines are a buck each per week.

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to fight on the front lines for ourselves and our people men of such soul only need send letter + photo to get same form this equal opportunity kind of guy. Outweek Box 1315

INTERESTING AND FUN

Perhaps we've seen each other at the gym, the beach, the ballet, theater, gay community events, and occasional demos. We're both nonsmokers; professional men who are in shape and who enjoy a wide variety of interests like good food, good books, film, travel, spirituality, provocative discussions, romance. We both are sensual and very sex positive and either are currently in or have been in therapy. So why haven't we met? That's the purpose of this ad. I'm 38, GWM, 6 feet tall, brown hair just beginning to grey who lives in Chelsea. You are at least in your late twenties but could be in your mid forties. Perhaps you are an AIDS widower, but you are single and are hoping for that to change. No matter what your age you know how to have fun and are looking to meet someone special to date and see what might develop. HIV status isn't important. Letter w/photo and phone no. please. Outweek Box 1315

NICE GUY WANTED
GWM, 5'9" 47 150lbs Br/Br average looks, enjoys, arts, theatre, nature plants and flowers looking for friendship/relationship P.O. Box 1248 Union, NJ 07083-9998

SUBMISSIVE WM
40, 5'9", 145, Dancer's body, will wear panties, nylons, high heels, etc. for masc hung men. Discreet, kinky dates at your place, NYC only. Lee, POB 146, Prince St Station, NYC 10012.

MISS TOP HALF
Nice bottom incomplete more ways than one. Bit lonely and dis-

appointed knowing you're out there and don't look beyond fantasy. I'm real and waiting for you-maybe winter will be warm after all. Write: POB 4547, LIC, NY 11104.

BROOKLYN BEER/BICYCLE SHORTS

You were buying it/wearing them Wed. 9/20 on Upper West Side. We had a brief chat. Care to share a beer together? P.O. Box 149 Cathedral Station, NY 10025.

DESPERATELY SEEKING SYBIL?
GWM with split personality seeks date who looks good in leather jacket and earring. HALF playful, silly, good time boy, half serious, political, professional, appreciates green things and solitude. You: 25-35/brains/sexy/good kisser/like Jukebox at The Bar. No Yuppy scum please. Me: 30/tall/handsome/muscles/big feet. Tell me which half you want to meet, photo/phone. Outweek Box 1321

ONLY THE BEST WILL DO
for this x-tra handsome WM 25, 5'11", 160, hot body, I seek only the hottest, best looking, in shape, G, Bi, Married men for steamy, creative, 2somes, 3somes, 4(?) into role playing, locker room scenes, other hot fantasies. Send photo (a must), phone and turn ons to Box 1298, NYC 10185. Don't be disappointed again-write now.

SLAVE WANTED!
Masc, muscular, hot dominant, very well hung top wants sexy kinky slave with a great ass. Me: 40's great body you; any race, good body and interesting mind! This is honest! Outweek Box 1323

OCTOBER ECSTASY
Two hot GWM buddies, 30-15H with gym bodies, seek same for uninhibited, exclusive safe sex party. Great pecs, arms, smiles a plus-couples welcome.

Foto/one to PO Box 149, Cathedral Station, 10025.

ETHNIC CHASERS
Chubby, GWM, 39, 5'5", 200, hr/br, hry chest & belly, dn, shy, uis, seeks well-built, masculine chasers, any race, for hot/sweaty, safe times. Midtown, day/nite. Photo xchg, pls, TJ, Box 112, Executive Suite, 330 West 42 Street, NYC 10036. BB a+.

BRIGHT INTENSE
Decent physical/occupational package. I'm 48, 6', 170, looking for guy who likes back-rubs, bubble baths and Chinese Food. OutWeek box 1326

SENSUAL INTELLECTUAL
With charm, GWM, 42, 5'11" BR/BR 165 HIV+ witty, warm, loving, attractive sexy, politically conscious and working in the arts. Seeking Mr. Right or even Mr. Wrong so long as he's bright attractive loving 25-40. Seeking a buddy as well as that special you know what photo and phone pls. Mark box 774 Times Square Station, New York, NY 10108.

HUNG TOP
GWM 33 5'10" 155 bald/beard seeks any race younger smooth-bodied bottom for fun joyous times--Greek w/condoms, I want long lovemaking Afternoons not just sex-and-see-ya-later. (shaving is a real turn-on.) Perhaps I'm too much of a workaholic for a relationship, so I'm looking for something loose and spontaneous now. But...you never know. Send letter and photo to P.O. Box 326, New York, NY 10040.

OPEN CALL GWM
28 5'6" 145lbs Brown/ Moustache Into movies, music, books and just having a good safe time seeks similar GM 25-35 to Co-Star in life; letter/photo phone to JP POB 2522 West NJ, NJ 07093.



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1	HEADLINE
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15	

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Telephone verification charge: (if your phone # appears in ad) @ \$10.00 = _____

☐ Charge my Visa / Mastercard. Acct # _____ Exp. _____

Signature: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

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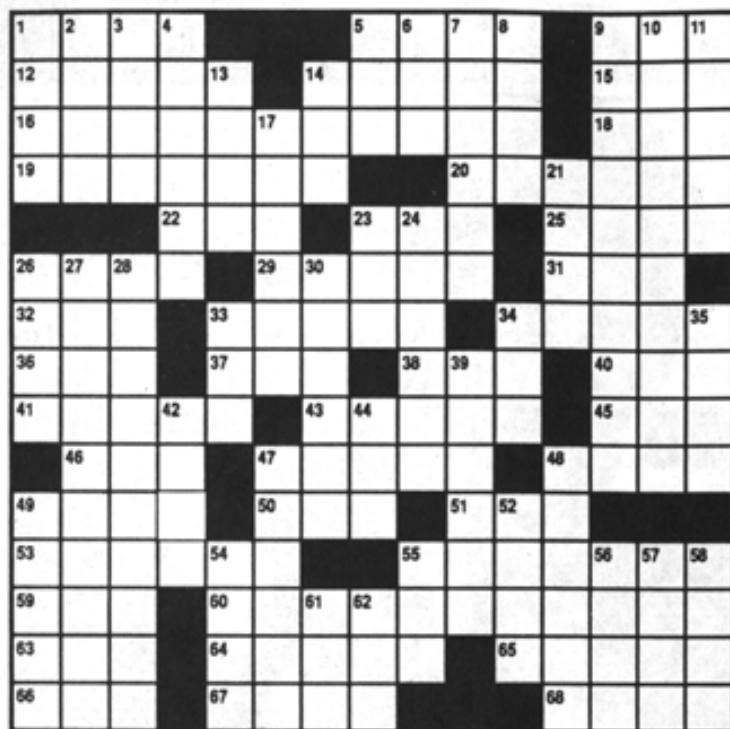
\$3.50 per call

Must be 18 years of age.

OutWeek Crossword

by Phil Greco

Edited by Gabriel Rotello



4. Tasks
5. Nickname for Coolidge
6. Friend, to Cocteau
7. Fixed
8. Petition
9. Isherwood novel
10. Book by Stein
11. Motel role
13. Crude metals
14. Civil War abbr.
17. "Kill the _____"
21. Teen heartthrob Scott _____
23. _____ Tognazzi
24. Power's lover
26. Elec. units
27. Britten work about folkloric hero
28. Coward work
30. Kramer's *The _____ Heart*
33. Candle _____
34. *A Shropshire _____*
35. *Mona _____*
39. Diane or Lee
42. Actress Best
44. Bother
47. Shot pellet
48. Lawrence of _____
49. Right-hand page
52. Laughton's wife
54. Wound
55. Possess
56. Kip, Marc or Jeff
57. Scot.: endure
58. Black stone
61. Eggs
62. Still

SOLUTION IN NEXT WEEK'S OUTWEEK ON SALE MONDAY

ACROSS

1. He's in drag in *Kind Hearts and Coronets*
5. Queer kitsch
9. Attention (abbr.)
12. "_____ *Man*": Village People hit
14. Humpy animal
15. "_____ Loves You"
16. Bennett masterwork
18. Nickname for the late, great Berlin
19. Pasolini film
20. _____ Coleman
22. Psychic inits.
23. Actress Mary
25. Film critic James
26. Young and Kong
29. "_____ We Trust"
31. _____ at ease
32. Bleat
33. Witch's prop
34. Trompe _____
36. Bodily fluid
37. Air: comb. form
38. Braun or Gabor

40. 1006, to Caesar
41. More clever
43. Muddled
45. Alphabet letters
46. Underwear brand
47. _____ de Charlus
48. Anatomical loop
49. Destroy
50. Moose
51. Poetic contraction
53. Anger
55. Book by Woolf
59. Cell: comb. form
60. Britten opus
63. Hebrew letter
64. *The _____ Pillars of Wisdom*
65. Alvin _____
66. Single
67. Mitchell's *In _____*
68. Fox role

DOWN

1. He loves (Lat.)
2. *Arsenic and Old _____*
3. Gay rights org.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

ISSUE 17 SOLUTION
TO BE PRINTED IN ISSUE 18



HardCore To
Domination OR
Bondage UNDE 10

HOT WAX Chains W

HANDcuffs B&D L
Glory Hole FIST

Slave BOOTS FF
MILITary Heavy t

ON D O E

ANCH B O To
F'cking

sters Har Core
os Master
moore B O

Heavy t

Boots

Boots

Boots

Boots

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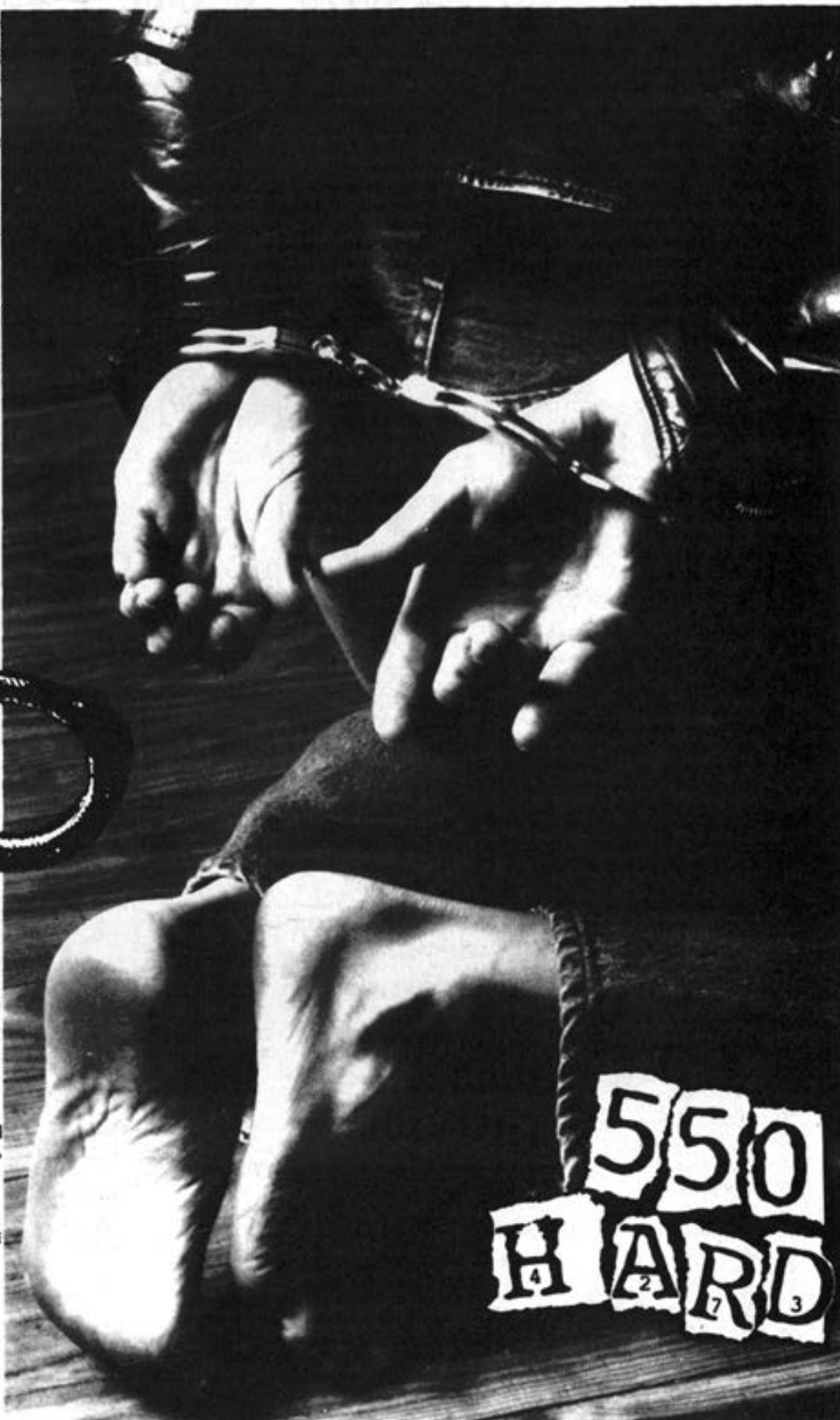
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by *Erich Conrad*

Photo by *Lizzerd Souffle*

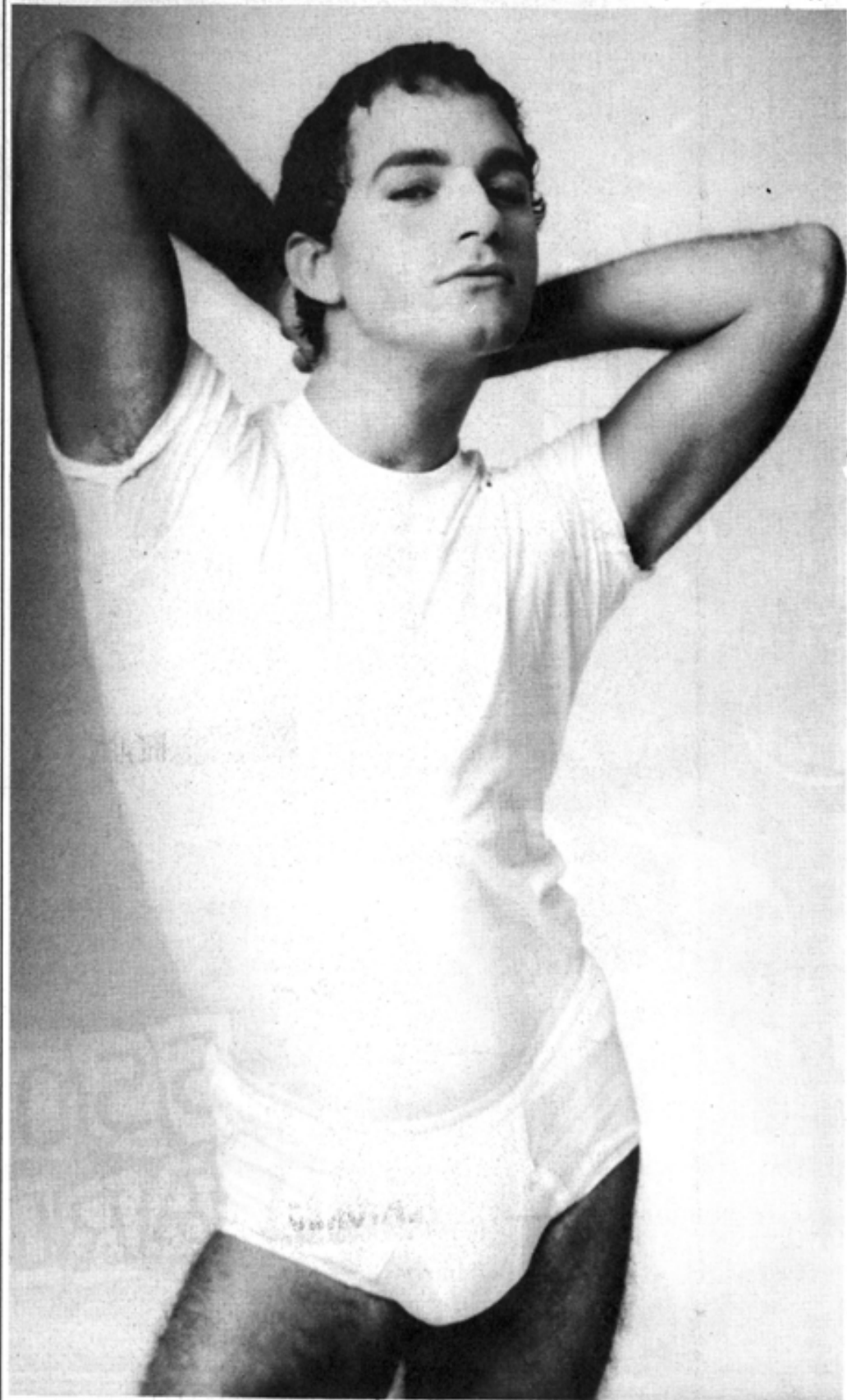


ALBERT CRUDO

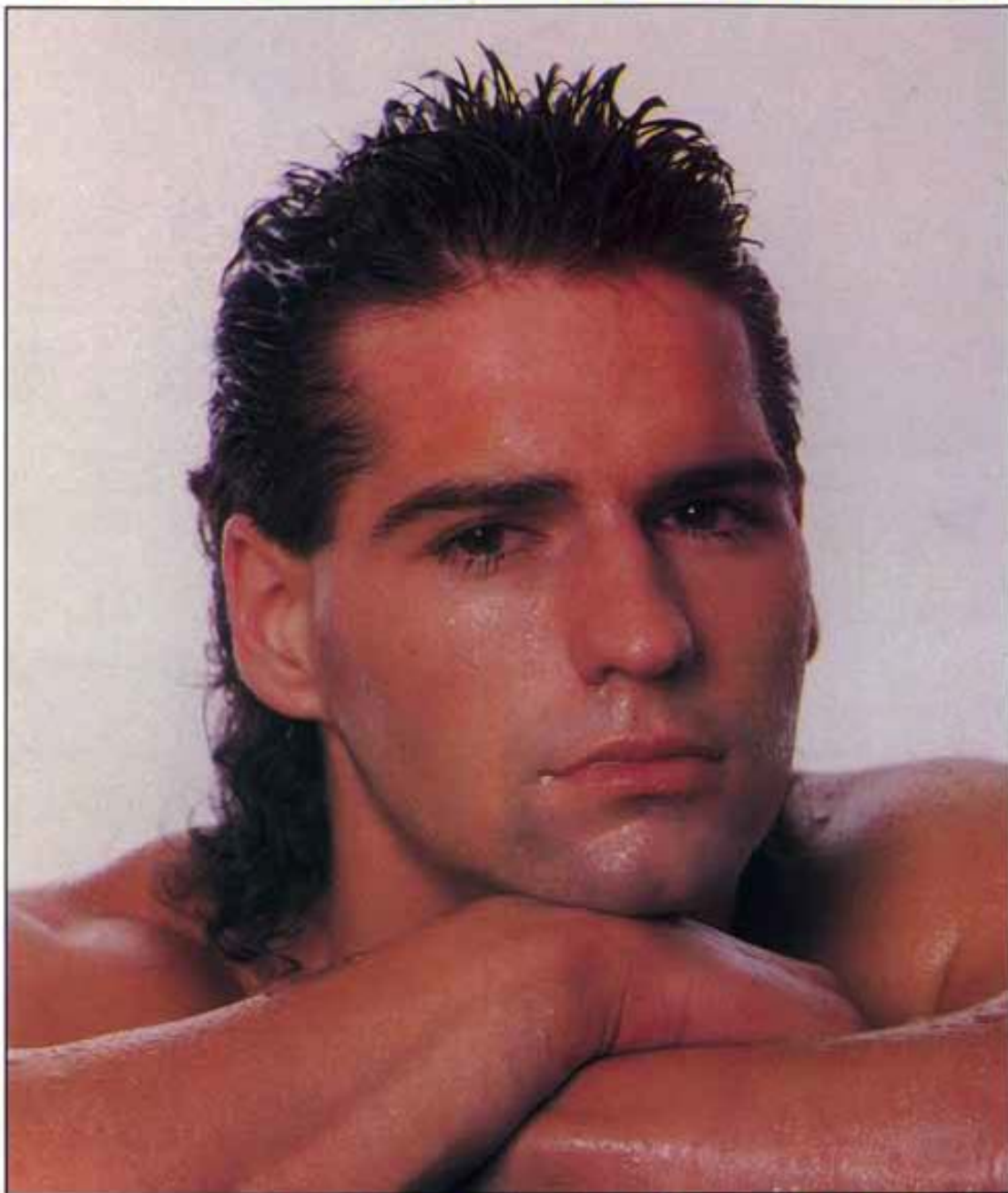
just possibly may be the planet's first designer/rock star. He forecasts that "skin will be the ultimate accessory of the 90s," and being covered with the stuff himself, he should know. His clients include such luminaries as Debbie Harry, Dianne Brill and Lahoma Van Zant, and movers and shakers frequently call on him to whip up tasty one-of-a-kinds in his fab factory of fashion.

While advocating that we should all "sculpt our bodies to the perfection they were meant to be," he stresses that we also have to join together to save the earth from ecological suicide. Aside from universal salvation, Albert dreams that one day all American youth will be hooked up to walkmans, playing his cassingle *All* (on Funtone Records) as they line up to buy his ready-to-wear in malls across America.

Forever feeling he is on the verge of something really, really big, Crudo confesses, "I'm so close I can almost taste Madonna." Let's hope she's tasting back.



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